

OUR INDIA

BY
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Humphrey Milford
OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

AMEN HOUSE, LONDON, E.C.4

EDINBURGH GLASGOW NEW YORK

TORONTO MELBOURNE CAPETOWN

BOMBAY CALCUTTA MADRAS

HUMPHREY MILFORD

PUBLISHER TO THE

UNIVERSITY

First published, October 1940

First cheap edition, November 1940

Reprinted, January 1941

PRINTED IN SCOTCH BOLD TYPE

BY K. C. BANERJEE AT THE MODERN ART PRESS, CALCUTTA

BOUND BY HARTSON & CO., CALCUTTA

PAPER MANUFACTURED IN CALCUTTA AT TITAGHUR PAPER MILLS
FROM BAMBOOS GROWN IN ORISSA

PREFACE

A little knowledge, it is said, is a dangerous thing. Statistics of Indian life are so scanty and scrappy that reliance on them is bound to endanger one's conclusions. A little book of this nature does not, fortunately, have to pretend to scientific accuracy. Nor can it be burdened with footnotes giving references to works from which facts and figures were derived. That makes it all the more necessary, however, to acknowledge the author's indebtedness to various sources from which he has drawn much of his material. Such a list can hardly be complete, but among the works which he would like to mention are Jathar and Beri's *Indian Economics*,¹ Arnold Lupton's *Happy India*,² Soni's *Indian Industry and its Problems*,³ Gyan Chand's *India's Teeming Millions*,² V. K. R. V. Rao's *India's National Income*,² Wadia's *Geology of India*,⁴ Ram Manohar Lohia's *India in Figures*,⁵ H. G. Wells' *Work, Wealth and Happiness of Mankind*,⁶ Otto Neurath's *Modern Man in the Making*,⁷ and the *Statistical Year Book of the League of Nations*.²

The verses on pages 54, 62 and 67 have been quoted from Shamrao and Elwin's *Songs of the Forest*,² Ilin's *Moscow Has a Plan*,⁸ and Mrs E. M. Milford's translation of Jasimuddin's *The Field of the Embroidered Quilt*.¹

I am indebted to many friends for suggestions, particularly to Professor M. L. Dantwala of the New Commerce College, Ahmedabad, Mr J. C. Kumarappa, Secretary of the All India Village Industries Association, Dr Nazir Ahmed, Director of the Indian Cotton Technological Institute, Professor F. R. Bharucha

¹ Oxford University Press. ² Allen & Unwin. ³ Longmans Green.

⁴ Macmillan. ⁵ U. P. Provincial Congress Committee, Lucknow.

⁶ Heinemann. ⁷ Secker & Warburg. ⁸ Cape.

of the Royal Institute of Science, Bombay, Mr S. S. Zubair of the Tata Hydro-Electric Power Company, Ltd., and Mr P. B. Karanjia of the Bombay Suburban Electric Supply Company, Ltd. To Mrs Sarojini Naidu, I owe a special debt for her encouragement and interest.

Thanks are also due to the Secretary of the National Planning Committee for permission to peruse reports and drafts of various sub-committees.

M. M.

Bombay, September 1940

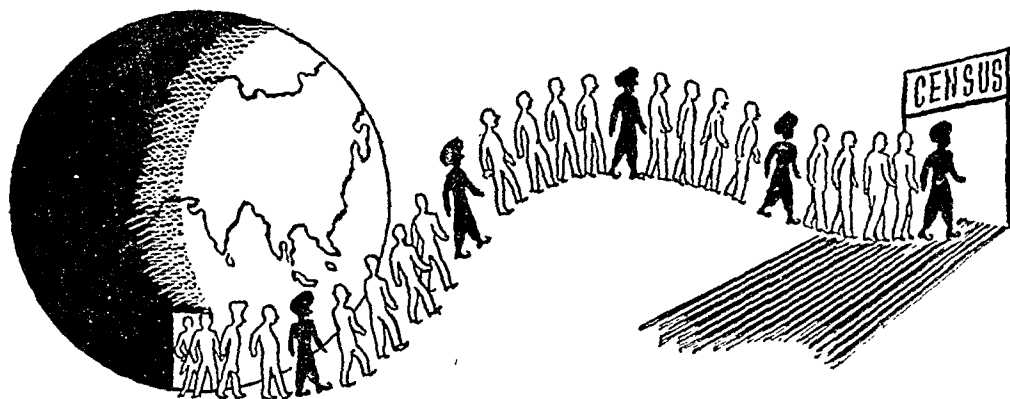
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I

ONE IN FIVE

One man in every five is an Indian. The other four are, let's say, an American, a European, a Negro and a Chinese. Here they are being counted.



Doesn't that make you feel very important? It is rather a staggering thought, isn't it, that we Indians are no less than a fifth of the human race and that, next to China, our country has the biggest population in the world? And doesn't it make us feel keen to take our proper share in the ordering and settling of the world's affairs?

Besides, what a huge country ours is! Extending 2,000 miles east to west and 2,000 miles north to south and with an area of some 2 million square miles, it is as big as the whole of the continent of

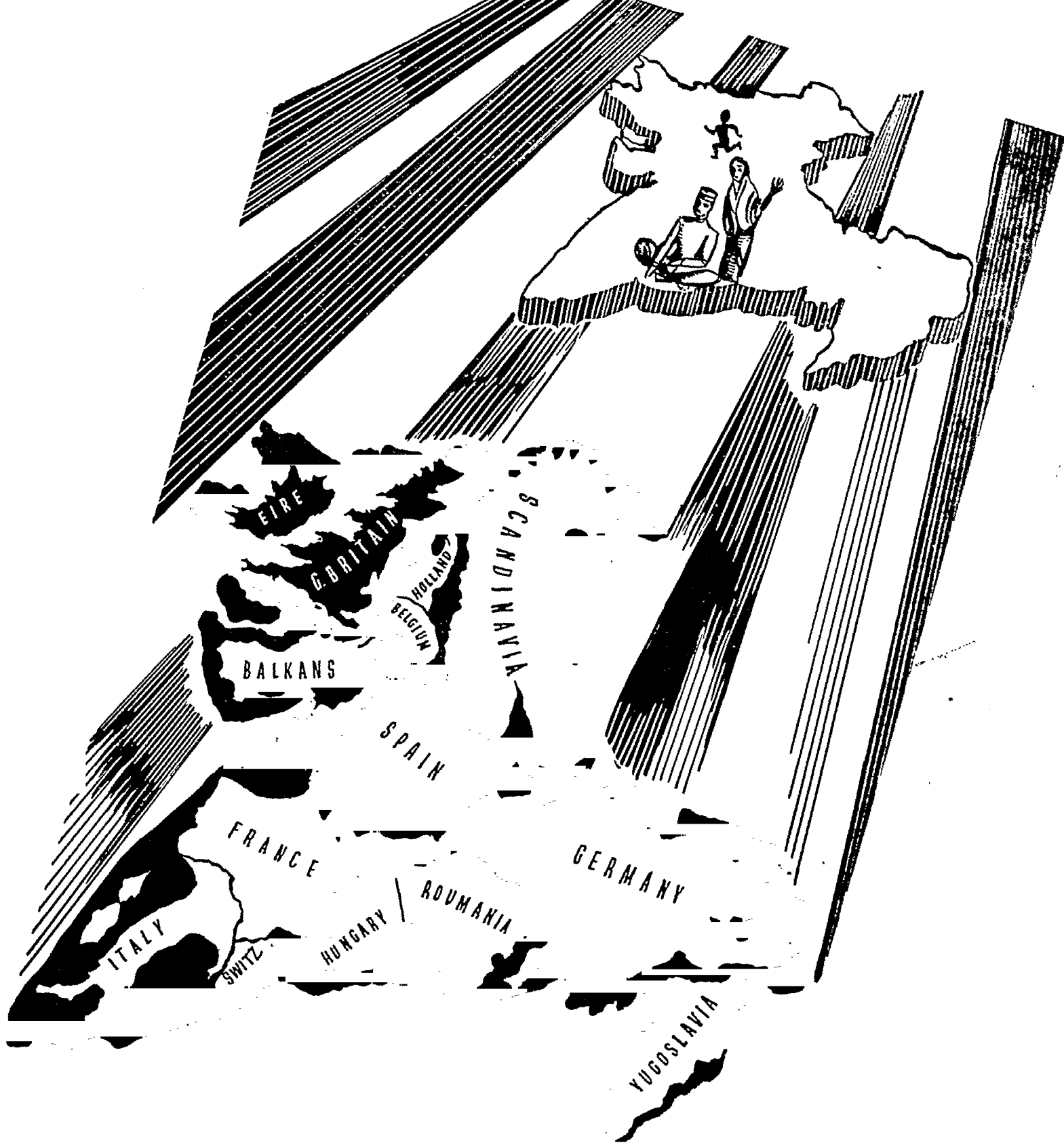
Europe excluding Russia, as you can see from the map opposite.

The size of an ordinary district in India is 4,000 square miles, and some of our districts are as big as entire States in Europe. Thus, both the area and population of Vizagapatam district in Madras are bigger than those of Denmark, Mymensingh district in Bengal contains more people than Switzerland, and there are far more living in the Tirhut division of Bihar than there are in the 'great' Dominion of Canada!

We should remind ourselves of this because many tiny little countries occupy such a lot of room in our history books and in our newspapers and receive such a lot of attention. Even some of the maps of the world in your school atlas—not deliberately, of course!—give this lop-sided view of our place on the globe. Do you know that one of them actually makes India look only *half* as big as it really is compared to England?

Now, size or bigness is not in itself much good. It is what one makes of one's bigness that matters. It has its advantages and its disadvantages. It faces us with big difficulties and big problems. But it makes it possible for us to do things in a big way.

We Indians are like a landlord with a big estate, but we have to ask ourselves where and how it is situated. Is it provided with well-marked boundaries to distinguish it from neighbouring estates or

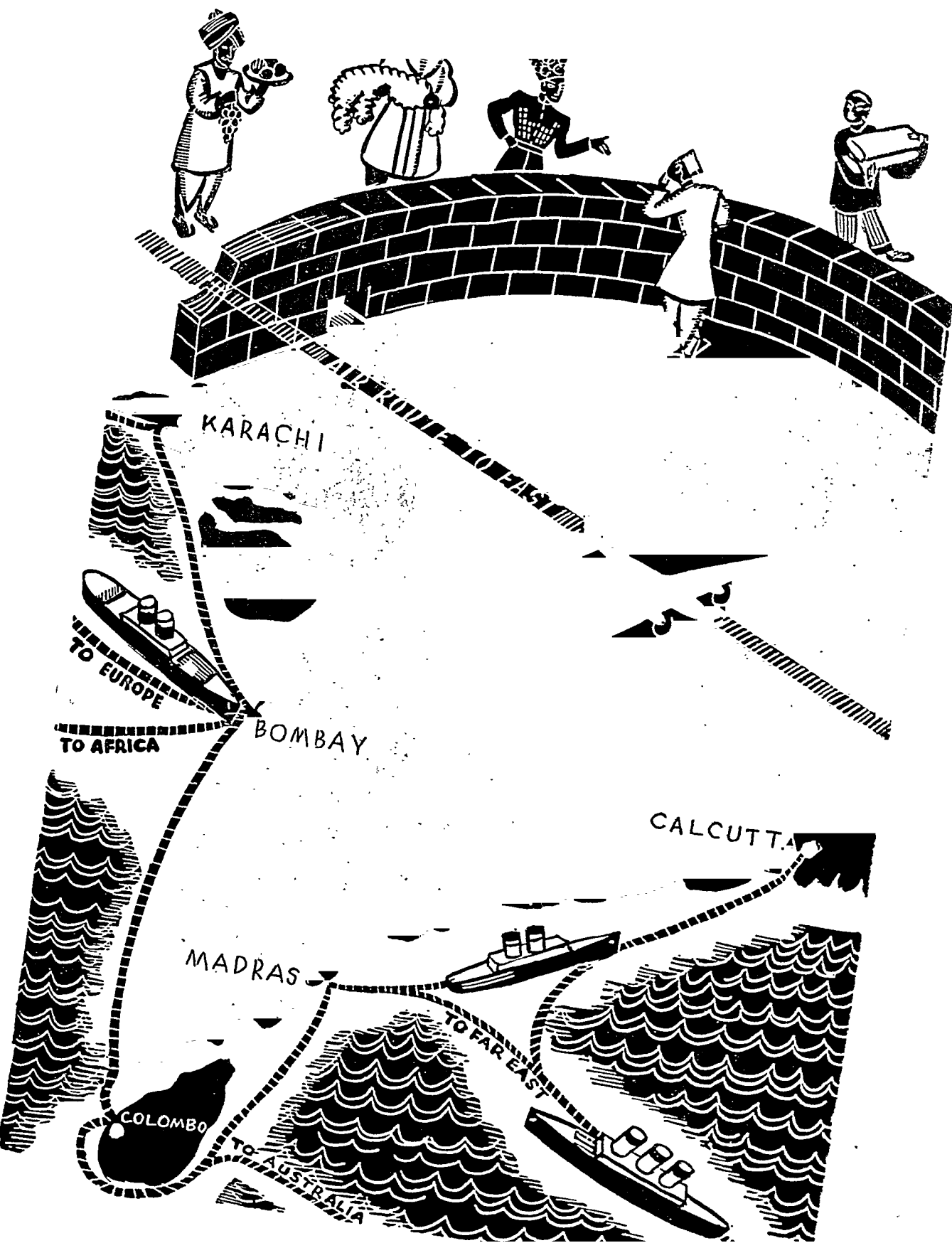


not? Is it placed on the main road or is it in some remote corner approachable only through dark and winding lanes?

Nature has provided India with more shelter and protection through natural boundaries than almost any other big country. A broad expanse of deep blue ocean surrounds it on east, south and west. And on the north, could there be a more impregnable Siegfried Line than that provided by the Himalayan range of mountains which runs almost all the way along our land frontiers?

Although we are so well marked out and sheltered, we are by no means cut off from the rest of the world. On the contrary, we are situated right on Nature's highway. India is placed on important shipping and trade routes from Europe and the Near East to the Far East and to Australasia. It can trade with equal ease with China, Japan, Thailand (Siam) and Malay, with Australia and New Zealand, with East and South Africa, with the Levant and Europe and with Russia, Iran, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Turning our attention inwards, what lies inside our frontiers, what sort of country is ours? Those who study the structure of the land and what lies under it tell us that India divides itself into three rather distinct parts. There is first in the South the triangular plateau of the Peninsula, which is the oldest part of India and which is rocky. The Vindhya and the Satpura mountain ranges rising



east from Kathiawar mark this part from the rest of India. Then in the North there is the mountainous region of the Himalayas, the tallest mountains in the world. Some learned people believe that the Himalayas are still slowly rising! They say the earthquakes we have had in this region, as in Bihar, are due to this movement.

In between is the third unit—the Indo-Gangetic Plain—extending from the valley of the river Indus in the west to that of the Brahmaputra in the east, which is blessed with fertile soil of great agricultural value. This is the newest part of our country.

For a long time it lay under the sea, and the Peninsula was an island. The great rivers from the North scraped earth from the Himalayas, rushed down the valleys with it and dropped their mud in the calm waters of the inland sea. Slowly, very slowly, the bottom of the sea rose, the rivers had to carry their mud farther before they could find a quiet place to drop it, and so the great plain of the Indus and the Ganges was built up. The Peninsula was no longer an island. The gap was filled. The Peninsula of Southern India was joined to the hills of Asia by the plain of Hindustan, one of the most fertile regions in the world.

The Himalayas influence our country a great deal. For one thing, they affect our climate and our land. By keeping off the dry winds of Central Asia,

they protect India from the desert conditions which prevail there and which would otherwise spread south. Thanks to these friendly mountains, India's climate is so pleasant that an Englishman described it as delightful in *all* parts of the country for *some* months of the year and in *some* parts of the country *all* the year round.

Another thing, where do the great rivers of India spring from? Again, the Himalayas! On their slopes lie the sources of the Indus, the Ganges and the Brahmaputra, which provide the people of Northern India with water, irrigate the soil and provide a means of transport. Also, they are still dropping mud on the land and making it more fertile.

To keep these big rivers flowing endlessly from mountain to sea, Nature has devised for us something as marvellous as the jinn that could be conjured up by Aladdin's Lamp. This jinn is our familiar friend, the Monsoon. In the middle of each year, he transports, as you can see in the picture on the next page—through the action of the sun, the clouds, the wind and the rain—indescribable quantities of water back from the sea to the mountain tops. He also waters the parched plains of India.

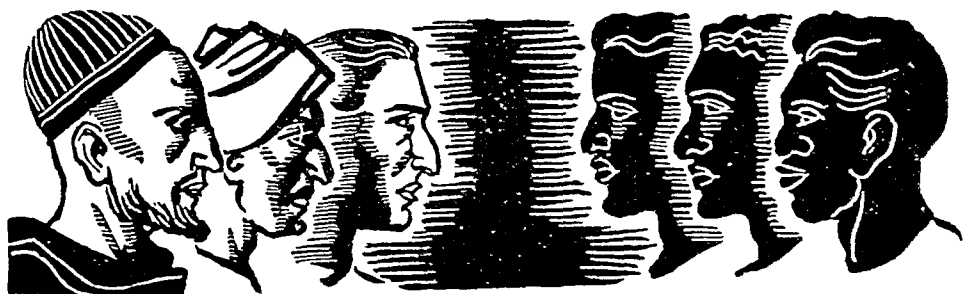
Next to the Monsoon, perhaps the most striking thing about India is the tremendous variety of its climate, its land and its people. No wonder, for Cape Comorin is only 8° north of the Equator and



Gilgit in Kashmir is 34° north. India has every variety of climate from the blazing heat of the plains as hot in places as hottest Africa—Jacobabad in Sind can be in summer as much as 125° in the shade—down to below freezing-point, to the Arctic cold of the Himalayan region. While Cherrapunji in the Assam hills has 460 inches of rain in the year,

Upper Sind has about 3 inches only. In general, we have eight completely dry months followed by four months of a continual downpour of rain. We have the fertile Indo-Gangetic plain in which almost anything will grow, and the rich tropical forests along the coast of the Peninsula, as in Malabar; but we also have the dry, sandy desert regions of Rajputana and Sind and Cutch.

How often we just look at a man and say, 'I don't like his looks!' or 'He must be a nice chap'. Why? Because instinctively we feel that a person with such a face cannot be nice or that another man with a certain expression in his eyes must be exceedingly nice. And indeed, our instinct is often right—though sometimes we make a wrong guess—because what a man is like is generally to be seen from his face and his expression. Now, the land and the mountains and the rivers and the climate of a country are its face, while its men and women are its mind and soul. Only, in this case, because the people arrived so long after the country took its present shape and form, the process is reversed and the face of India is reflected in its mind and soul.

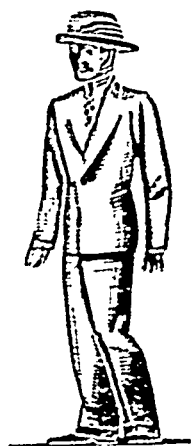


It is only natural therefore that the wide variety in its physical features should be found repeated in the people who live in India. The Indian can be as fair as the blondest of Hitler's Nordics, he can be as



dark as the African negro.

He can be the tallest of men, he can be as short and squat as an Australian bushman. He can be stalwart and strong, he can be frail and rickety. He can be like *this* picture or like *that*. Even in 1940, you can find him living, both in his mode



of existence and in his way of thinking, in every century from the fifth to the twentieth. Perhaps nowhere in the world, except in Soviet Russia, can we find such a variety of human types as in India.

And what tremendous man-power its huge population of nearly 40 crores (or 400 millions) gives to India—next to China, the biggest in the world.

The fact that there are so many of us and such different kinds of us may, and does, produce rather difficult problems for us to solve in the way of living together peacefully and happily. On the other hand, just think what a tremendous source of strength it is and can be!

MANPOWER



400,000,000



A lot of the progress men have made in supplying themselves with food, clothes, houses and other things they need, is due to increasing division of labour amongst themselves. Your father doesn't grow everything he eats, and make with his own hands everything he uses, does he? No. Very wisely he takes advantage of the greater experience of the peasant in growing corn and rice and of the greater skill of those who make his clothes and his shoes and his shaving-razor and his books for him. If he tried to do everything for himself with his own hands, he wouldn't get very far for all his cleverness (hush, fathers are *always* clever!), would he? No, none of us—not even the strongest and the cleverest

—can possibly find the time or the energy to learn to make all or even a twentieth of the things we need for our use every day. So, learning wisdom through the ages, we have divided the work among ourselves, some of us in the fields growing wheat and rice and vegetables and fruits to eat, others in the factories making cloth and shoes and motor-cars and radio-sets, with yet others sitting at tables and writing books. So far has this process gone nowadays that a small thing like a piece of clothing may be the work of scores of workers specializing in one of numerous processes like growing cotton, ginning it, pressing it, carding it, spinning yarn out of the cotton, weaving cloth out of the yarn and making something to wear out of the cloth.

Different people are clever at different kinds of work. So too, different races or types of men display qualities of mind and body which fit or unfit them for particular kinds of work.

Similarly, different kinds of land can produce different crops and different kinds of climate are, according to their heat or cold, dampness or dryness, fitted or unfitted for particular processes of cultivation or manufacture.

Just think how lucky a country like India is—and how rich it ought to be—which has all types of men, all sorts of land and all kinds of climate!

It means that India is a country which has, somewhere or other, all the possible raw materials.

for making all the things its people want. It means that we Indians can grow or make in India almost anything we require. Can you imagine, for instance, cotton being grown in England or apples in Arabia? But in India we can have *swadeshi* cotton AND *swadeshi* apples.

Alcyone threw herself for grief into the sea, and that the gods, out of compassion, changed them into birds. "It was fabled that during the seven days before, and as many after, the shortest day of the year, while the bird *Alcyon* was breeding, there always prevailed calms at sea." [Dr. Smith]. Hence the phrase *Halcyon days*, i.e., peaceful or calm days. They lasted for 7, 11 or 14 days. *Ruffle*, disturb. *No storms.....sea*, the sea is calm and undisturbed.

P. 4. *You shall hear*, I will tell you. *Shall*, denotes promise. *A fairy maiden*, a fairy girl. *Fairies* were imaginary beings or spirits supposed to assume a human form, and to meddle in the affairs of mankind. *Beach*, sea-shore. *The daughter.....wind*, here is a confusion between *Aeolus* the father of *Halcyone*, who was the ruler of *Thessaly*; and *Aeolus*, the father of the *Aeolian* race, and the god of the winds. Combining both these notions, *Kingsley* calls *Halcyone*, the daughter of the beach and of the wind.

P. 5.—*Wrecked*, shipwrecked. *Swim to the shore*, reach the shore by swimming. *The billows.....up*, he sank beneath the waves. *Drowning*, sinking. *Leapt*, jumped. *In vain*, to no purpose. *Immortals*, Gods. *Floating*, swimming. *Sail up and down*, remain floating upon the waves.

A long.....Danae, the day appeared very tedious to *Danae*. *Beside*, in addition. *Faint*, weak. *With*, denotes cause. *No land appeared*, she could see no land. *Quietly*, calmly. *Drooped*, lowered.

Awakened, roused from sleep. *Suddenly*, all at once. *Jarring*, making a rattling sound. *Grinding*, making a sound as of rubbing against an object. *The air...sound*, many kinds of sounds were heard. *Mighty cliffs*, large rocks. *All*, wholly; an adverb. *In*, on account of. *All red.....sun*, which looked quite red on account of the red rays of the setting sun. *Breakers*, large waves that strike forcibly against the rocks. *Flakes*, films. *Foam*, froth. *Around her.....foam*, around her were rocks and breakers striking against them and masses of foam flew all around. *Flying flakes of foam*, is an example of Fig. Alliteration. *Clasped her hands together*, pressed her hands close. *Shrieked*, cried. *Stately*, dignified. *Tossing about*, moving to and fro.

CHAPTER TWO

THE BOY IN THE BERET

I

IN 1889 Henry Montgomery was consecrated Bishop of Van Diemen's Land—or Tasmania—in Westminster, and the whole family set off by sea for the other side of the world.

It must have been an extraordinary upheaval for them. Another child, Una, had already followed the birth of Bernard, so that now there were five small children, and Maud Montgomery herself was still little more than a girl. Tasmania in those days was regarded as the outer wilderness, and with all his missionary zeal and his sense of duty Henry Montgomery must have had deep misgivings at abandoning his Irish home, his friends and the formalized life he loved so well in London. His wife, however, seems to have tackled the business with extraordinary determination. She was an exceptional girl, strong-willed, handsome and quite unusually methodical. From earliest girlhood she had been quick and intelligent at her lessons, and she shared her father's gift for precise and fluent writing. The rapid birth of her five children had still left her with abounding vitality. Not for one instant was she daunted by her youth, her lack of all experience in the life that lay ahead; while Henry prayed in his church for guidance, his wife was bundling up the trunks and boxes and keeping a firm hand on the excited children.

To understand Montgomery one has to keep in mind these early relationships, the resolute mother, the gentle father who was twice the mother's age, and the intensely busy "family" atmosphere which was now about to close round the boy in Tasmania.

They embarked on the steamship *Tainui*, and, making the long journey round the Cape of Good Hope, arrived in the harbour of Hobart in October 1889. Hobart of the 'nineties was an astonishingly beautiful place, a neat country town with many brownstone houses and wooden shingle roofs that ran down to the very edge of the clear water. "Victorias", with pairs of white ponies, trotted about the streets. Immediately behind the settlement Mount Wellington soared up, a gay wooded slope just coming at this season of the year into its spring freshness against the sky and the bright sun. Many

progeny. *A monstrous brood*, a large number of monsters. *Which.....you*, which awaits you there ; which you will have to do on your arrival there. *Play the man*, act manfully. *In that*, in the work at your home. *Before I can.....Gorgon*, before I decide to send you in search of the monster.

Would have spoken, wished to speak. *Writhing*, twisting ; being distorted. Page 13. *On the floor*, on the ground. *Turning*, moving. *Pass out of*, go from ; leave. *Raging*, violently agitated with passion. *Flew upon*, rushed at. *Mastiff*, a large species of dog, remarkable for its strength and courage. *Villain and Tyrant*, thou wicked and cruel monster. *Respect for*, reverence for. *Is this.....Gods*, is this the way in which you honor the Gods. *You shall die, shall* denotes certainty. *Dash out Polydectes' brains*, to kill Polydectes by knocking out his brains. *Clung to him*, clasped him close. *Fall on*, attack. *Entreated*, requested ; begged. *Brought you up*, maintained you. *Spare.....sake*, do not kill him for my sake.

Lowered, dropped. Page 14. *Was in the wrong*, had committed an offence. *Let.....pass*, allowed Perseus and his mother to go away.

Took, carried. *Made her one, &c.* here *her* is the Direct object and *one* the Factitive object of the verb *made*. *Safe*, free from molestation. *Dare.....altar*, venture to carry her off from the altar of the goddess. *An altar* is the place where sacrifices are offered. *To get.....force*, to obtain by force what he desired to possess. *Cast about*, calculated. *Castcunning*, began to form plans as to how he could secure her by art.

Get back, recover. *Plot*, scheme. *To rid himself of*, to free himself from. *Now he was.....of him*, being sure that he could never get back Danae as long as Perseus remained in the island he thought of a plan to remove him. *Pretended*, feigned. *Forgiven*, pardoned. *For a while.....ever*, for some time, everything went on as calmly as before.

Proclaimed, announced. *Feast*, festivity. *Invited*, called. *Land owners*, landlords. *Homage*, obeisance. *Eat.....hall*, dine with him in his hall. *Banquet*, feast : entertainment.

They had strict instructions to refuse sweets even when they were offered at other children's parties.

Little by little the rules grew up until every corner of the day was organized and disciplined. The children rose at dawn, tidied their rooms, cleaned their shoes and chopped wood for the fires. Lessons began at 7.30, followed by an inspection of the bedrooms (the children standing on parade at the doorways), and then chapel. After chapel, breakfast and then lessons again all morning. At midday the family lunch, with the Bishop at the head of the table. Games in the afternoon for a fixed period. Supper, the children prepared for themselves, and ate in the schoolroom. And finally the day closed at the appointed hour with family prayers.

Saturday was a day of relaxation when the children might perhaps ask a few friends to a party. Sunday was a time when all games and worldly things must be put aside and the entire day devoted to religious readings and services. This was the fixed unalterable rule of the house and Maud Montgomery would allow no breaches of it. A Christian life was a serious and Spartan thing, and if she was firm then it was simply for the children's own good. Minor illnesses were no excuse for being absent from the daily round of duty. The children had to be tough. They learned that if they woke in the night with some possibly frivolous malaise they could not call on her; they must wait for the morning. If they wasted their pocket money they were beaten.

To a world which has had its customs loosened by two major wars this set routine seems harsh and repressive. It may even have been severe by Victorian standards, but it was certainly not exceptional for a churchman's household. The Rule was all. Sin had to be closely watched. It lay across a thin dividing line from virtue, and the safest thing was to observe a very definite code of behaviour from which it would be an effort to escape.

Here and there no doubt Maud Montgomery, in her zeal to do the best she could for her family, made mistakes. Possibly she was too firm in some ways. Possibly the children might have responded to a looser rein and a less guarded affection. But it must be remembered that she had no older relations in Tasmania to guide her in these things. In the absence of friendly advice she simply obeyed the Victorian law to the letter.

Henry was ready enough to hand over the household to his vigorous and capable young wife. He had much travelling to do in his diocese. Often he would be away for weeks tramping in the unexplored bush; he was a passionate walker. And

contact with. *The cliff below*, the rock near the surface of the sea. *It broke and parted*, it was divided into two pieces. *Light limbed*, having nimble limbs. *Whose eyesfire*, whose eyes shone like fire. *A young man..... fire*, this is a description of the God Hermes, the messenger of the gods among the Greeks and the Romans. *Scimitar*, a short sword. *Of diamond*, of denotes material. *Sandal*, a kind of shoe; kharaon. *Living wings*, wings which could be actually used for flying.

Keenly, scrutinizingly. *Looked.....keenly*, saw Perseus attentively. *They never.....eyes*, their eyes were steadfast. *Stir*, move. *Quivered*, shook. Page 18. *Hangs above*, hovers over (in preparation of swooping down upon it). *More than men*, i. e., Gods. *Bid.....fear*, commanded him to be fearless.

Overcomes, conquers. *Trial*, test. *Merits*, deserves. *Sharper*, more difficult. *He who.....still*, he who is the victor at one trial deserves to undergo a severer test. *Braved*, encountered; defied. *Done manfully*, behaved like a man. *Dare you brave*, are you bold enough to encounter.

Try me, put me to the test. *A new.....breast*, a new spirit has been infused into me. *Show.....this*, let me know how I can brave the Gorgon. *Think.....attempt*, weigh the matter carefully before you venture. *Repent*, change your mind. *If your.....you*, if you lose courage. *The Unshapen Land*, the abode of the evil spirits in mythology. *Better so*, it is better to die &c. &c. *Despised*, scorned. *Of your great kindness &c.*, out of your great kindness &c. *Of* denotes source. *Condescension*, (L. *Con*, with, *de*, down, *scando*, I climb) kindness towards inferiors.

Page 19. *Be.....listen*, listen to me patiently. *The Hyperboreans*, a fabulous people, who lived beyond the north wind in a region of perpetual sunshine. The poets related that the sun rose only once a year and set but once a year upon the Hyperboreans, whose year was thus divided into a 6 month's day and a 6 month's night, and they were therefore said to sow in the morning, to reap at noon to gather their fruits in the evening and to store all these things up at night; and that they lived for 1000 years. *Beyond the Pole*, on the further side of the North

pride. What was becoming increasingly apparent was that the child had inherited in a very marked degree his mother's strong will. The clash between them was inevitable.

Outwardly there was nothing very dramatic about all this; Bernard's misdemeanours were of the usual schoolboy variety. He spent pocket money on the forbidden sweets, or, worse still, against his mother's strict injunction accepted them at other people's houses—and then went roaming in the fields to clear his breath before he got home. Once, it is true, in a blind rage he pursued a little girl through the house with a carving knife (in after-life the victim said she felt like Rommel). But for the most part his sins were those of simple disobedience—of being late or noisy—of defiance and deliberate forgetfulness. It was not so much the quality of his transgressions: it was the importance which he, even as a small child, attached to them. He seemed incapable of taking life as easily and calmly as his brothers and sisters. Every incident was a challenge. Every row was a personal battle. Neither he nor his mother would give in. He might have accepted the routine but he hated the way it was applied. And in challenging his mother he found himself battering vainly against a will that was just as strong as his own. He was aware that he was being naughty, but he was unable to stop himself; something drove him on to put each issue to the test. And he began far too early in life to know fear. Sometimes, when he knew he had been naughty and that it would not be long before punishment overtook him, he would go coursing through the garden, and then, throwing himself down in the long grass he would whisper; "What have I done? What have I done?"

The problem was equally difficult for the mother. She judged it her duty to be firm rather than indulge him. At times, as it happens with most parents, the boy would drive her to the limit of exasperation. Then, standing at the head of the stairs she would call him, "Bernard, come here". He would walk up staunchly, and having taken his beating, would come down again, still in control of himself but with a trembling lip.

Possibly Bernard would have defied any control that was set upon him, even at so tender an age as this; he was irritable of all restraint. But he was also sometimes lonely and unhappy, and unconsciously felt himself in need of more affection than he found. Somewhere in that dark incommunicable world of early childhood a character was being formed. But to reach it and touch it and guide it—this was no easy thing for an unsubtle age which believed it had already discovered the correct methods for the behaviour and the bringing-up of children. How often do we ourselves look back into our first

warded by being placed among the Stars. *The Aegis-holder*, Zeus. *Aegis* was the name given to a shield which was possessed originally by Zeus, but which he afterwards presented to Athene. *Win to yourself renown*, become famous. *And a place among the heroes*, and be reckoned as one of the heroes. *The peak.....blow*, Mount Olympus, the abode of the gods.

I will.....going, I am resolved to go on with this enterprise, even though I do so at the risk of my life. *Scales*, the covering of fishes and reptiles. The word is applied to Medusa's skin because she was more of a beast than a human being. *If.....brass*, if her skin be composed of iron and brass. *The young man*, the young god who had accompanied Athene. *Bear*, carry. *Dale*, valley. *Hermes.....Olympus*, Hermes was a son of Zeus, who made him his own herald and the bearer of his commands to men on earth. He is also the god of Eloquence. The legend of his having killed Argus is as follows:—Zeus loved the daughter of Inachus the first king of Argos; but owing to Hera's (the wife of Zeus) jealousy, the poor princess was metamorphosed into a cow and placed under the guardianship of Argus, the "hundred-eyed." Hermes, at the command of Zeus, put Argus to death either by stoning him or by cutting off his head after sending him to sleep by the sweet notes of his flute; and delivered it to Hera who transplanted the eyes of Argus to the tail of the peacock, her favourite bird. *Olympus*, the extreme eastern part of the chain, which borders the Southern end of Pieria. In the Greek mythology, Olympus was the chief seat of the third dynasty of gods of which Zeus was the head.

Page 21. *Guide*, lead. *Divine*, godly. *Stray*, wander, lose their way. *Stroke*, thrust. *Needs...stroke*, its thrust does not require to be repeated. *Gird them on*, fasten them on your loins; equip yourself with them. *Lingered*, stayed. *Bid farewell*, say good bye. *Burnt-offerings*, sacrifices.

Lest, for fear that. *Relent*, give way; relax. *Lest...weeping*, for fear that you may change your mind by her weeping. *Comfort*, console. *In peace*, unharmed; uninjured. *Olympians*, dwellers on Olympus; i. e., the Gods. *Trust in.....Immortals*, rely upon the aid of the Gods.

"I remember the first day I saw the family", says the account of a contemporary. "They were walking down a street in Hobart. To us they seemed to have stepped from the pages of a picture-book. The Bishop, with his silky beard and kindly face, was always to us a picture bishop. Mrs. Montgomery was the most beautiful woman I have ever seen, that truly perfect Irish type. Black hair, cream and roses skin, and deep violet eyes heavily lashed. She was more like the eldest sister than the mother of her children.

"Una, the daughter, was very pretty, with a wistful little face, a frail child wearing a Greenaway frock of black velvet half-way down her legs, little white socks and dainty shoes. Then the sturdy Harold, and Donald, so beautiful that he took your breath away, with peat-stream eyes and gold curls lying in flat ringlets against his head. Finally the irrepressible Bernard. Perfectly straight hair and cool grey eyes, exactly as he is now, beret and all, only the beret was a scarlet one. All four wore scarlet berets, and the boys' knickers of black facecloth, with little buttons on the outside seam, and short covert coats, seemed to us the height of elegance.

"We climbed trees and swung down the outside branches like monkeys. We played hide-and-seek all over the roof. We climbed out of upstairs windows and in at others by linking hands. Many times I quailed at the tasks set by Bernard.

"'Who's afraid?' he shouted once to a line of children before him. 'I'm not', said a newcomer, stepping forward. 'Liar!' shouted Bernard. He tied our hands together, made us climb up a ladder, step on to the roof, walk round it and come down again. I remember fighting against this until the string ate into my skin, but in the end I went under his escort. To my astonishment I found myself back on the grass unhurt. Coolly he whipped out his pocket-knife and freed my wrists. There was trouble after this. Parents on both sides were displeased.

"The last time I saw him was at a Bishop's Court Christmas party. He was standing half-way upstairs with that slight scowl that we see even now in his photographs. He looked the picture of elegance with his white silk shirt, black velvet pants and long, slim, black-stockinged legs."

The scowl evidently was meant seriously. Bernard had just been ordered to bed by his mother for misbehaviour.

It was upon his father that all the boy's pent-up affection flowed from even his earliest days in Tasmania. Here was the essence of patriarchal kindness and justice. Bernard worshipped him. Secretly he began to imitate him.

One night the Bishop called his sons together and read

sun. *Wilds*, uninhabited and uncultivated regions. *Passed* crossed. *The Thracian mountains*, the mountains of Thrace, a large country bounded by the Danube in the north, the Aegean Sea on the south, the Black Sea on the East, and the river Strymon on the west. *Tribe*, race. *Many.....tribe*, many tribes of barbarians, i.e., Non-Greeks. Among the Greeks, a man must be either a Greek or a Barbarian; and *Greek* and *Barbarian* were correlative terms just as *Christian* and *pagan* are at the present day. *Pæons*, a powerful Thracian people, who in early times were spread over a great part of Macedonia and Thrace. *Dardans*, a people in Upper Moesia, who also occupied part of Illyricum, and extended as far as the frontiers of Macedonia. *Triballi*, a powerful people of Thrace, dwelling along the Danube who were defeated by Alexander the Great in B. C. 335. *The Ister stream*, the river Danube. *Dreary*, barren; waste. *Scythian plains*, *Scythia* was the name given in ancient times to the South Eastern parts of Europe between the Carpathian mountains and the river Don. *Moors*, are extensive plains covered with heaths. *Fens*, are low lands covered wholly or partially with water, and overgrown with sedges, coarse grasses &c., *Bleak*, cold and dreary. *Turning*, moving. Page 24. *Came to*, reached, arrived at. *The Unshapen Land* is the name given by the ancients to the regions, lying near the poles. In these regions, it often occurs that some parts of land become covered with ice and look like a frozen Sea; while the ice melts away in some places and shows new land. It was for these frequent changes in the land that it was so called.

Through it, i.e., through the Unshapen Land. *Few*, almost nobody. *On.....tell*, by a road which is hardly known to any man. *Trodden*, walked over. *Like*, wish. *Those.....speak of it*, the persons who have seen it do not wish to describe it. *Go...dreams*, dream of those places. The meaning is that the place is so dreary and cheerless that persons who have seen it do not like even to mention it, and even when they dream of it in their sleep, they are very glad if they are roused from their sleep. *Edge*, border. *He came.....night*, he reached the country where eternal night prevails. *Feathers*, feathery scales of ice floating about in the air. *The air.....feathers*, scales of ice floated about in the atmosphere. *Hard with ice*, covered with hard ice. *Nodding*, moving their heads in

Cruel and proud, pitiless and haughty. I have, i.e., I have got. Swear.....right, and confirm by an oath that what you have said is the truth. Chattered, prated. Scolded, chid. Forced, obliged. Make out, understand.

Ugly glare, disagreeable glow. Atlas the Giant, or properly the Titan, was a brother of Prometheus, and, along with the other Titans, made war against Zeus, and, being conquered, was condemned to bear heaven upon his head and hands. According to Homer, he bears the long columns that keep heaven and earth asunder. Later traditions make Atlas a man who was metamorphosed into a mountain. Thus Ovid relates (and his view has been adopted by Kingsley) that Perseus came to Atlas, while on his way to the Gorgon and, at the special request of the Titan, changed him, by means of the Gorgon's head, into a mountain. Apart, asunder. The Hesperides, see note on p. 19.

P. 27. *Instead.....it, far from seeing anything with it. Fell fast asleep, began to sleep soundly. Turned, changed. Blocks, large pieces. The tide, is the rise and fall of the water in ocean. The fall is called the ebb and the rise, the flow. Till.....away, till they were carried along the retreating tide to the wide sea. Icebergs, mountains of ice floating about in the ocean. Weeping.....joy, the melting of the ice on the icebergs is called the weeping of the Gray Sisters. Meet the sunshine, come into regions where the sun shines. Fruitful summer, the summer season when trees bear fruit. Fill... joy, gladden young persons. The tin isles, Great Britain, for it was known to the ancients as a country producing tin. The Iberian shore, according to Dr. Smith. Iberia was the name of the country between the Balck and the Caspian Seas. It would be proper however to understand by this term, the peninsula of Spain and Portugal. Perseus starts on his journey southwards, and goes past the island of the Hyperboreans, the tin isles (i.e. Britain) and the peninsula of Spain and Portugal in order to reach Mount Atlas. Terns, a kind of sea fowls, having long wings. Swept, flew rapidly. Dolphins, a kind of fish. Gambolled up, jumped up. Passed, went beside them. Offered, proposed. Tritons, demi-gods, sons of Poseidon. Blew upon their conchs, sounded their conchs. Conchs, a kind of marine shell. Sankh. Played, gambolled. Galataea, or Amphitrite, the wife of Poseidon and goddess of the sea. She is represented in works of art*

Then there was the evil day when the banks failed. The coach and the gardeners disappeared. For a time the family travelled second-class in the trains, and the Bishop's wife took some pride in the fact that she was "the worst-dressed lady in Hobart". The Bishop was forced to sell some of the family land at M^oville.

In 1897 Henry was summoned home to England for the Lambeth Conference, and he took the family with him. They lived with Dean Farrar, and the boys were temporarily placed at King's School, Canterbury. But soon they were back in Tasmania again, and the round of entertainment and work went on at Bishop's Court.

Just at the turn of the century the children were immensely excited to see a contingent of troops setting off from Hobart for the Boer War in South Africa. Soldiering meant nothing in Bernard's life (he was barely twelve), nor was it much mentioned in that religious and peaceful household. But now the uniforms and the guns fired his imagination, and for some months afterwards he would play nothing but military games. It was a phase that flared up and passed, apparently leaving no trace behind.

Then in 1901, when Bernard was thirteen years old, his father was suddenly asked to resign his bishopric and come home to take charge of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, in London. Henry Montgomery was entirely reluctant. The family had grown to love Australia. They wanted and expected to spend the remainder of their lives there—Bernard in fact was already entered for St. Peter's school in Adelaide. But the Bishop in the end decided that he must go, and at the end of the year the family arrived back in London.

They took a large house in Bolton Road at Chiswick, close to the point on the river where Oxford and Cambridge Universities rowed in their annual boat race, and they named it Bishopsbourne. Harold, the eldest boy, at once enlisted in the Army as a trooper, set sail for Africa—and never returned. Eventually he became a colonial civil servant and retired to Kenya. Donald and Bernard were sent off as day boys to St. Paul's School in Hammersmith.

3

They were hardly prepared for the life of an English public school. They were "colonials". Neither of them had been to a public school before except for a few months. They were strong swimmers and runners. They had grown sunburnt

Trembling, shuddering. *Dreary*, desolate. *He was*gone, he was very eager to go away. *Boldly*, courageously. *Ugly*, unpleasant ; offensive to behold. *Sight*, spectacle. *Heart*, central part. *Cruises*, sails. *Where...* day, where there is no distinction between night and day. *Rustle*, a quick succession of small sounds. *Glitter*, brightness. *Brazen talons*, claws of brass. *Halt*, stop.

With himself, in his mind. *Remembered*, recollected. Page 32. *Huge*, enormous. *Hidden*, concealed. *Sank down* near them, descended downwards till he came close to them. *Terrible*, fearful.

Foul, filthy. *Heavily*, soundly. *Out spread*, extended. *Tossed*, moved. *To and fro*, backwards and forwards. *Restlessly*, uneasily. *Plumage*, wings; feathers; a Collective Noun. *Rainbow*, a bow formed by the refraction and reflection of the sun's rays in drops of falling rain. *Like the rainbow*, of variegated colours. *Knit*, twisted. *Clenched*, pressed tightly. *Gleamed*, shone. *Had...strike*, could not be cruel enough to hit. *Ah, that*, I wish that. *Had been*, would have been ; Subjunctive Mood, denoting wish.

Tresses, locks of hair. *The viper's heads awoke*, the snakes which had been sleeping up to that time awoke. *Peeped up*, saw. *Fangs*, teeth. *Hissed*, made a hissing noise. *Showed*, disclosed ; discovered. *Venomous*, poisonous.

Page 33. *Steadfastly*, steadily. *Herpe*, the name of the sword of Hermes. *Stoutly*, forcibly ; strongly. *He did.....again*, there was no necessity of his repeating the blow. *Turning.....eyes*, looking in another direction. *Sprang*, jumped up. *Faster*, more swiftly. *Rattled*, made a quick sharp noise. *Sank dead*, fell down and died.

Yelling, crying. *Looked for*, searched. *Swung round and round*, circled in the air. *Hawk*, a kind of bird of prey. *Beat for*, search. *Snuffed*, inhaled the air. *Hounds*, a species of dogs. *Draw upon*, advance upon. *Struck upon*, found out. *Scent*, smell. *Checked*, stopped. *To make sure*, to become quite certain. *On they rushed*, they flew on. *The wind.....wings*, the air, beaten by their wings, made a loud hoarse noise. *Horse=rough*.

Sweeping, flying rapidly. *Flapping*, bearing the air with their wings. *Eagles*, the largest kind of birds. *Like*

Flitted.....desert, crossed the desert. *Rock-ledges*, stony crags. *Banks of shingle*, ridges of earth covered over with shingle. A *bunk*, is a mound of earth. *Level wastes of sand*, flat deserts covered with sand. *Shell-drifts*, large quantities of shell washed on the shore by the tide. *Shell*, is the hard substance which forms the skeleton of many animals. *Bleaching in the sunshine*, growing white by being exposed to the sun. *Skeletons*, bony structures. *Sea-monsters*, huge marine animals. *Strewn up and down*, scattered here and there. *The old sea-floor*, the land which was formerly covered by the sea. *Asps and adders*, species of snakes. *Breed*, are produced in large numbers.

He never knew.....long, not knowing the distance he traversed or the time he occupied in doing so. *Feeding on*, eating. *The hills of the Psylli*, the Psylli were a Lybian people the earliest known inhabitants of North Africa. The hills referred to are those which form the edge of the Great Desert (Sahara), in that part of the country which is now called Tripoli. *The dwarfs*.....*cranes*, these were a fabulous people represented as living upon the Niger. *Cranes*, a species of aquatic birds. *Reeds and rushes*, species of long grasses growing in water. Page 37. *Their homes*.....*cranes*, they lived in the eggshells of the cranes. *Went his way to*, continued to go towards. *Way* is the Cognate object of *went*. *Sparkling*, glittering.

Came.....wind, a strong wind blew. *Swept him back*, forcibly carried him back. *All day long*, throughout the whole day. *Strove*, struggled. *He...it*, he tried hard to go in spite of the unfavorable wind. *Prevail*, overcome. *Could not prevail*, were not able to carry him against the wind. *To float*.....wind, to be carried down by the wind. *Save*, except. *Hateful*, abominable.

Sand storms, clouds of drifting sand. *Rushed upon him*, blew forcibly against him. *Blood-red*, red as blood, very red. *Pillars*, columns. *Wreaths*, curly streams. *Pillars and wreaths* are in apposition to sand-storms. *Blotting out*, i.e., concealing from view. *Choked*, stifled. *Burning dust*, hot ashes. *Gale*, a strong wind. *The gale fell calm*, a calm prevailed. *Calm* is complement to *fell*. *Spent*, exhausted. *His tongue*.....mouth, he felt very thirsty. *Cleave*, here means to adhere closely. *The roof*

inspiring devotion. He had an inflexible determination and he was tremendously confident. I do not want to portray him as a lovable character because he isn't."

Looking through contemporary papers one comes on many references to Bernard as the star young man in schoolboy sport. Thus in *Wisden* for 1906: "When the full team (St. Paul's) were able to play they gave a good account of themselves and showed their ability to play an uphill game . . . Cooper and Montgomery putting on over 100 for last wicket when severe defeat seemed impending".

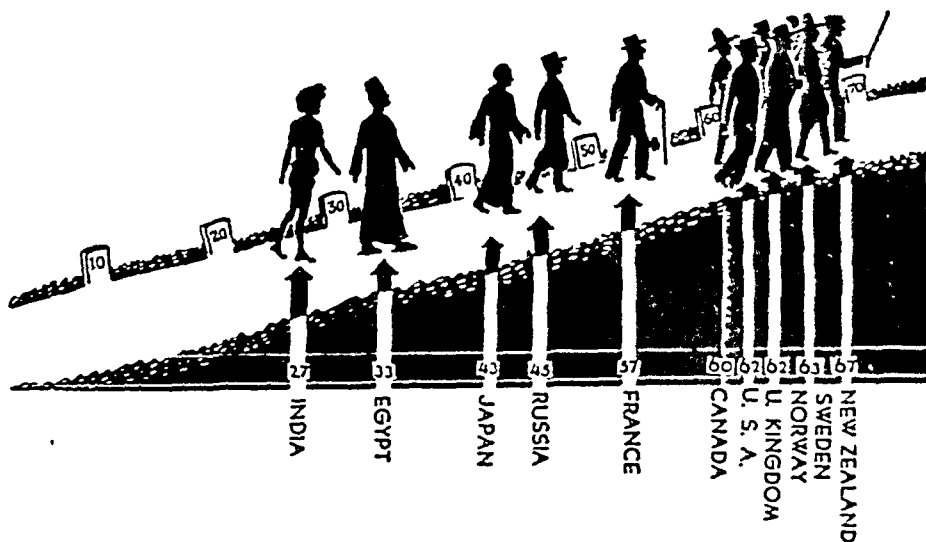
This was young Bernard's world and he was deadly serious about it. Work at school did not impinge too strongly on him: he passed and that was all. The whole business of lessons appears to have been rather nonchalant, although he did work rather harder in his final year and passed his examinations without difficulty. On his very first day at St. Paul's an interesting and not altogether explained event had taken place. Scholars who eventually intended to go into the Army were given an opportunity of entering a special group known as the Army Class. When the proposition was put to Bernard he unhesitatingly replied, "Army Class". In later life he could not remember why he made the choice. There is the obvious explanation that he had been stirred by the Boer War and the departure of his elder brother in a resplendent uniform. But the idea of soldiering as a career had never really entered his head. There was no family background for it, and certainly no encouragement from his parents; indeed the very reverse. His mother, he knew full well, would certainly not approve. Already she was planning something very different, the Church for instance. Somewhat defiantly he went off home on this first night to tell his parents. He was met with hurt astonishment.

"But why the Army?" they asked him. "Why did you choose that?"

"I want to be a soldier", he answered stubbornly. That was his decision. He was going to stick to it. Arguments were useless. The more his mother demanded explanations the more he was resolved. Grieved and uneasy, the Bishop left the room. If this was the boy's desire then perhaps it was the will of God. Exultantly Bernard went back to school the next day and started work in Army Class "C", which was the lowest category then offering. When he emerged three years later at the age of eighteen his graduation to Sandhurst was more or less automatic. He left St. Paul's as the best-known boy in the school and a prefect of Army Class "A".

another 30 years! You don't like the idea, do you? But then you are lucky, you know, having survived your first year of life!

If, for instance, a baby brother or sister were to be born in your home—don't mention this to your mother or father, it'll only hurt their feelings, because grown-ups *are* like that!—the little baby, sad to say, is due to die at the age of 27.



In this picture you can see the nations walking along the road of life. Look at the Frenchman, striding along till he is nearly 60. The New Zealander still waves his stick as he approaches 70, but sad to say the Indian is collapsing before he gets to the 30-year mark.

Why should this be so? Why can't all Indians live just as long and have just as much of the good things of life as my friend who works in that office?

Don't they work as hard as he does? Of course they do. Many of them do the hardest and most unpleasant work and are still the poorest! Unfortunately, according to our present ways of living and arranging things, reward is not always in proportion to the work done. But even if this were not so, even if every one of us was paid equally, our college professors tell us that our income per head of population would only rise from Rs. 64-6-0 per annum, which it is today for the vast mass of our people, to Rs. 78 in the year or Rs. 6-8-0 in the month. Let us try this on a family of five, which is most common. Given a fair and equal division of our country's production, Mr Indian would get no more than Rs. 390 ($=78 \times 5$) a year or Rs. 32-8-0 a month, out of which to maintain himself, Mrs Indian, Master Indian and the two Misses Indian. Work it out—just over a rupee a day for an entire family of five Indians!

Is ours then such a poor country that its children have to starve? Is it a barren, dry desert with little that grows on its land and nothing that lies below it? Is it Nature that has been so unkind to us?

You will shout 'No!' because you have already seen that, far from our country being a particularly unfortunate part of the Earth's surface, India has been blessed by Nature with a huge area, with a hospitable and varied climate, with fertile soil and plenty of water, with rich deposits of valuable



way nonchalantly through the course. Finally one incident brought things to a crisis. An attack was made on a certain cadet, and he was surprised at the moment of undressing. Under Montgomery's directions the youth was pinned from the front with a bayonet while Montgomery set fire to his shirt-tails behind. The victim was badly burnt and sent to hospital. The conspirators were appalled. Although the injured cadet never revealed the names of his attackers the incident sobered them down considerably, Montgomery most of all.

He began to see that he had been wasting his time. If he was to proceed with his expected promotion to the rank of colour sergeant he had better get down to work. But already it was too late; he had been marked down as unsatisfactory. When the promotion lists went up he was passed over. It was a slight that no one at Sandhurst could altogether ignore. Montgomery, full of angry pride, found that he had been reduced to the rank of cadet, and when this occurred he tore the corporal's stripe off his arm and defiantly framed it over his mantelpiece.

Then he began to work. There was a good deal in his temperament and his circumstances to help him to this simple decision. He was far from wealthy. The Bishop spared him two golden pounds a month to put in his sovereign case—not nearly enough to enable him to join the other cadets in their occasional jaunts to London. Nor enough for the cadet drinking parties. Barely enough for tobacco. Certainly not enough to entertain girls to dinners and dances. But none of this was of much importance. He drank very little, and smoked still less. And the matter of entertaining young women was wholly outside his interest. All this was not merely the result of a severely religious upbringing. He was neither prudish nor assertive about his abstemiousness; others could do what they liked. He had no wish to convert them. There was simply a strain of innate asceticism in the boy. It was no effort at all for him to reject the normal minor vices and pleasures of life; he was simply not interested. While all around him his companions were toiling awkwardly through their first calf-love affairs he was not even embarrassed by the presence or the idea of women. He knew them, he had grown up with them, and they were not interesting. The thought of kissing a girl was not so much ridiculous as a waste of time. He began to perceive the existence of a world in which he had no part, and he neither hungered for it nor consciously resisted it. There was a barrier separating him from other people and

with Perseus among the stars. *As long.. ...mine*, as long as I could be called a living being. *Hapless*, unlucky; unfortunate. *Hap*=chance. *For.....food*, to be devoured by the sea-monster. *To atone for*, to expiate. *Boasted of me*, said boastfully about me. *Earthquake*, a shaking of the earth, due to subterranean causes. *Bred*, born. *Slime*, mud. *A monster.....slime*, a huge animal sprung from the mud. *Devours*, (*L. De* down and *voro*, I eat) eats up. *Guiltless*, innocent. *He who never &c.*, fig. Anadiplosis. *Harmed*, injured. *But I gave it life*, which I did not restore to life. *But* (=that not) a negative Relative. *It* is redundant. P. 46. *Blood*, death. *Nothing.....blood*, my death alone.

Faced, braved; opposed. *For your sake*, in order to save you. *How.....sea*, how much more ready I should be to face a beast of the sea. *Kindled*, aroused. *New hope.....breast*, she got a new hope of her life. *Round her*; clasping her. *Glittering*, gleaming. *So proud.....sword*, he looked so proud and fair as he stood there, clasping her with one hand and holding the gleaming sword in the other.

Why will you die, why do you wish to die. *Is there.....already*, is not the world, as it is, full enough of death and misery. *Noble*, glorious. *A whole people*, a whole nation. *Go.....way*, proceed on your journey. *Way* is the Cognate object of "*Go*." *Lords of Olympus*, the Gods. *Whom I serve*, who are my masters. *Are...of*, befriend. *Help.....deeds*, assist them in the performance of noble actions. *Led*, guided. *Not without them*, not without their wish and aid.

Page 47. *Believe his words*, rely upon what he said. *Pointed to*, indicated. *With the sunrise*, at the dawn of day. *With* denotes accompaniment. *Promised*, foretold. *Endure*, bear. *Piecemeal*, in pieces. *Is it not.....look on*, it is horrible enough to be torn to pieces, without the consideration of seeing you at the time. *Thrust*, push. *Ere*, before; an Adjective in form, (being the Comparative Degree of the Obsolete Anglo Saxon Adjective *Ær*, from "*Ær*, ere, erst,"; here used as a Conjunction. It is also used as a Preposition. *Come back with me*, accompany me. *Fruitful*, fertile. *Seal it with a kiss*, confirm your promise by giving me a kiss.

Crouched, lay close to the ground. *Waiting for*, await-

stand quite apart in the family history. Liberated from the streets of London the children ran wild. They tramped off sometimes for twenty miles over the mountains and along the coast. They called on the cottagers and ate teas of Irish pancakes and soda bread and butter. In the evenings hectic games raged through the old house. Shouting and screaming, the children raced round the dark passageways. There were noisy practical jokes, the girls against the boys. Sometimes they played charades, and often when they were tired Mrs. Montgomery would read to them from books of ghost stories and improving novels. She had a very beautiful reading voice. A squash court was built, and the local people remember especially the piercing yells when Bernard was playing.

All this was a heritage from a similar set of rompings and festivities which the children were allowed every Saturday in Tasmania, and now, just for a moment each year, they escaped from the drab life of London into the same exuberance and freedom.

Bernard planned endless expeditions. With his sister Una and a cousin aboard, it was his practice to take an open sailing boat straight out of Lough Foyle and into the Atlantic. When the boatmen refused their boats for these unnecessarily dangerous trips Bernard took the boats just the same. Often they were caught in squalls and Bernard would shout to his sister to loosen her skirt and her shoes and be prepared to jump for it. Once the boat was entirely out of control. As the swell rushed them past the submerged rocks and they were on the point of capsizing, a coastguard caught sight of them. Rushing along the cliff-tops he hurled curses and directions down upon the children, and somehow they managed to beach the boat and scramble ashore to face a six-mile walk in their wet clothes. Of such escapades they said nothing when they got home. It was part of the freedom of their holiday. Next day Bernard would set out again to catch conger eels in the Atlantic.

Sunday was the only brake on their excitements. In the morning all members of the household would troop down to the garden to select their Sabbath buttonholes—a tradition handed down from Grandfather Robert Montgomery. Morning and evening church services followed. The Sunday dinner invariably included six puddings. In the afternoons the Bishop read to the children in his study and answered their questions.

As the years went by the atmosphere of innocence and hilarity persisted in Moville. Even when the children and

aloud, feared to express their opinion openly. *Phineus*, was a brother of king Cepheus and uncle to Andromeda, who had been betrothed to his son. *Chafing*, raging, storming. *Robbed*, deprived. *Whelps*, cubs. *Like..... whelps*, as a bear chafes when somebody robs her of her cubs.

Marry, give as a wife. Page 50. *Stranger*, foreigner; outsider. *Of whom.....name*, who is known to nobody even by name. *Betrothed*, affianced; promised in marriage. *Right*, title. *Claim*, demand. *Now she.....claim her*, now that she is out of danger, is he not entitled to demand her.

Is in want of, requires. *Let.....himself*, he ought to save a maiden from danger for himself. *Helpless*, feeble; weak. *He seems.....bridegroom*, it appears that he is too weak to possess a wife. *Left*, abandoned. *Dead.....him*, she is lost to him. *Ungrateful*, unthankful. *Requite*, reward; recompense. *It will.....you*, you will be sorry for the consequences. *Men at arms*, warriors.

Unveiled, uncovered. *Delivered*, saved. *Stiffened*, became rigid. *As he stood*, in the position in which he was standing at the time. *Had drawn.....again*, had again covered the head with the goatskin. *Lever*, a bar of iron or other hard substance to raise weights. *Roll them out*, carry them out of the house.

Wedding feast, an entertainment given at the time of marriage. *Lasted*, continued. *So they.....Andromeda*, so a grand marriage feast was held. It continued for full seven days; and Perseus and Andromeda were the happiest of all mortals.

Page 51. *You have played the man*, you have acted manfully. *See*, is the Imperative mood, used absolutely. *Known now*, it must be evident to you now. *Just*, impartial. *Helps himself*, zealously tries to gain his object. *Give me here*, return to me. *Their owners*, those whose property they are. *Need*, stand in need of; require. *Lay it up*, place it. *Wear.....ever*, place it on my shield and keep it with me for ever. *Foes*, enemies. *As for*, regarding. *Appeased*, pacified. *Altars*, places where sacrifices are offered.

Vanished away, passed away. *Altogether*, quite; totally. *It was.....dream*, it was not a mere dream; i.e.,

substance, obtained by boiling down tar. *Dowry*, marriage-gift. *Of* denotes material. *Jewels*, precious stones. *Rich shawls*, costly and splendid shawls. *Spices*, aromatic vegetables used in sauces and cookery. *The East*, as employed by European writers, is a vague Geographical term. Sometimes it is applied even to Greece and Turkey; sometimes it extends to Japan and the Philippine Islands in the Pacific. *Great was.....away*, the people expressed their grief loudly when the ship left the shore. *Remembrance*, memory; recollection. *The remembrance.....behind*, his brave deed lived in the memory of the Æthiops for a long time after he had left the country. *Till.....past*, after a period of more than a thousand year.

Rowed, sailed. *Sea of Crete*, that part of the Mediterranean which lies around the island of Crete. *His ancient home*, the place where he used to dwell in former times. *Beach*, shore. *As of old*, as he formerly used to do. *Embraced his mother*, clasped his mother in his arms.

P. 54. *Foster-father*, one who takes the place of a father in bringing up and educating a child. *Seven years and more*, more than seven years.

At the table head, the head of the table is a position of honour. *Either side*, both sides. *According to his rank*, in respect of his position. *Harpers*, musicians. *Harped*, played upon the harps. *Revellers*, merry-makers. *Shouted*, vociferated; made meaningless speeches. *Rang*, tinkled; sounded. *Merrily*, gaily. *Passed from hand to hand*, went round; circulated.

Threshold, entrance. *Knew*, recognised. *He was.....journey*, his long journey had changed his appearance. *He had.....hero*, when he had gone out, he was a boy; but now he was quite a hero. *He stood.....pride*, while standing he looked as magnificent as a wild bull. *Hardened*, made callous. *Hardened.....more*, hated him more fiercely. *Scornfully*, haughtily. *Have.....fulfil*, do you now find it hard to fulfil your promise. *Whom.....help*, who are guided and protected by the Gods. *Fulfil their promises*, perform what they engage to do. P. 55. *Despise*, look down upon; disparage. *Reap.sown*, suffer the consequences of their evil actions.

Drew back, withdrew. *Held aloft*, raised up. *Pale grew*, turned pale. *Dreadful*, horrible. *Tried.....seats*, attempted to rise from the places where they were sitting.

CHAPTER THREE

PROBYN'S HORSE

I

LIFE in the Regular Army in Edwardian times was a period piece of a very special *genre*. Sadly, the bloom and the bouquet has blown away. Old soldiers, looking back across the upheaval of two cataclysmic wars, are apt to fumble in their recollections and all that is left are a few remembered names, a mass of English colour, a pageant, a brassy compound somewhere in India, a sense of spaciousness and time. It seems now that the whole period is lighted with a curious feeling of warmth, a sense of theatre, as though one were looking at it across a row of footlights.

There was no war to speak of. Indeed nearly a hundred years had gone by since Waterloo, and none of the subsequent nineteenth-century engagements—the Mutiny, the Crimea, the Sudan and the Boer War—had engulfed the nation or fully engaged the Army. The Army was free to develop in its own peculiar way. Nothing like the American Civil War had occurred to disturb its traditions or its ceremonial. No citizen army had been grafted on to the regular service. No unorthodox amateur had come up through the ranks. The institution was based not so much on the terrible experience of the battlefield as upon the accepted practices of peace or rather of keeping the peace. In the nature of things the emphasis was rather less on fighting and rather more on soldiering.

And yet the spirit was there. The discipline was excellent. The life was healthy and hardy. The drill most professional, the uniforms very decorative. And there was all the Empire to play with, especially India. The one thing really lacking, perhaps, was enthusiasm. For some time it had been the practice for families to send younger and less inspiring sons into the Army. Moreover, one really needed at least a small private income to maintain an officer's status with a proper dignity, and so the Army was a rich man's, a gentleman's, profession. This naturally narrowed down considerably the number of first-class men available for high command. It also meant a dearth of new ideas. One entered the Army because it was an amusing life, a gentleman's life. And there was a pleasing dash

P. 57. *Unknown*, as a stranger; unrecognised. *Curry away*, obtain. *My grandfather.....me*, my grandfather will think kindly of me; my grandfather will begin to love me.

Threw off, put off. *Helmet*, a piece of armour, used as a defence for the head. *Cuirass*, a piece of defensive armour covering the body from the neck to the girdle. *Pride*, glory. *They wondered yet more*, they were surprised all the more. *The best man*, the most skilful competitor. *Javelin*, a kind of spear. *Won four crowns*, distinguished himself in four different games. At the games of the Greeks, a crown of bay or laurel leaves was the reward of the successful competitor. *There.....won*, I have to defeat my competitors in one game more. *Lay... grandfather*, present all of them to my grandfather. *Royal staff*, sceptre. Though Acrisius had fled before Proetus, he still bore this mark of royalty. *Kin*, relative; kinsman. *His heart.....kin*, he longed to meet his grand-father. *Kingly*, royal; dignified. *Need.....of*, need not blush at. *Be* is in the Infinitive mood, the sign of the Infinitive being left out after *need*, which, like *dare*, does not require an s in the third person Singular.

Quoits, iron or wooden discs, used to be thrown in games of skill. *Hurled*, threw. *Fathom*, a measure of length containing six feet. *Beyond all the rest*, farther than those thrown by all the other competitors. P. 58. *The people shouted.....this land*, turned into the Indirect narration, this sentence would stand:—the people shouted to him to throw further yet, saying that there never had been such a hurler in that land. *There.....hurler*, no one ever threw the quoits so far.

Put out, exerted. *Put out.....strength*, employed all his strength. *Gust*, a violent blast of the wind. *Came*, blew. *Carried the quoit aside*, turned off the quoit. *Fell on*, struck. *Swooned away*, fainted. *His life was slow and feeble*, he was a weak old man. *Rent*, tore. *Rent his clothes*, in sorrow. *Cast dust upon his head*, covered his head with dust.

Ordained, decreed. *Must be*, shall happen. *Far-famed*, celebrated.

Prophecy, oracle. *Declared*, said. *The prophecy had declared*, it had been prophesied. *Made.....Acrisius*,

Montgomery has since expressed what he, on his side, thought of the Army. "The average young officer went to India to drink gin, play polo and have a good time. You were not supposed to show keenness in soldiering. A great number of these officers—and the older men at the top—were useless, quite useless. They were divided into two groups: those who had brains and those who had not. The majority with no brains got, subsequently (after the chaotic experience of the war had intervened) to the rank of major or lieutenant-colonel, seldom more. The minority with brains were divided into two classes: those who wanted to understand war and those who did not. Those who did not bluffed their way up to the rank of brigadier and sometimes major-general before they were found out. The others with brains and enthusiasm shot up to the top at once when war broke out. In 1939 there were not half a dozen good generals in the British Army."

It was just the sort of downright statement which irritated and antagonized the Army, especially the older regular officers. Montgomery was already beginning to deliver such opinions when, as a very junior lieutenant, he was posted to the Royal Warwickshire Regiment in 1908.

2

Almost at once he was ordered overseas to join the first battalion of his regiment on the north-west frontier of India at Peshawar. No one especially remarked his arrival; it was the custom to ignore young subalterns for the first few months after their arrival. Montgomery quietly set himself up in his billet. He had his kit, his tropical clothes, his red tunic and his swords. He had his pay of five shillings and threepence a day, or about nine pounds a month. His mess bill alone would amount to eleven or twelve pounds a month, but his mother had warned him that he would have to get along as best he could on his pay; over and above this the family could spare him just a hundred pounds a year. This did not worry him unduly except that, just at this moment, he wanted a horse. It was now Christmas 1908 and the Peshawar Vale Hunt Point to Point was due to be run in January. Montgomery was determined to enter.

Just why, as an indifferent horseman, he should want to do this is not entirely clear. Possibly he wanted to show that he was capable of something. More probably he simply looked on the event as one more field of sport to conquer. In any case

STORY II.

The Argonauts.

Note.—A Summary of this story will be found at the end of these notes.

The Argonauts, (the sailors of the Argo) were the heroes, who sailed to Colchis for the purpose of fetching the Golden Fleece about 1263 B. C. The cause of this expedition was this. At Iolcos in Thessaly reigned Pelias who had deprived his half-brother Æson, of the sovereignty. In order to get rid of Jason the son of Æson, Pelias persuaded Jason to fetch the Golden Fleece, which was suspended from an oak tree in the grove of Ares in Colchis, and was guarded day and night by a dragon. Jason willingly agreed and commanded Argus, the son of Phrixus to build a ship with fifty oars; which was called the *Argo*, after the name of the builder. Jason was accompanied by all the great heroes of the age and their number is usually said to have been 50.

PART I.—HOW THE CENTAUR TRAINED THE
HEROES ON PELION.

Page 60. *Tale*, story; noun formed from *tell*. *I have a tale*, I am going to tell. *Sailed away*, went by sea. *To win*, to acquire. *Renown*, fame; glory. *Adventure*, enterprise; a hazardous undertaking. *The Golden Fleece*, the fleece or wool of the Golden Ram. See page 62 of the Text. *Now I have.....Fleece*, I am now going to describe the history of the Argonauts who went to a distant country, to acquire eternal fame by undertaking to bring the Golden Fleece. *Whither*, to what place.

Clearly, distinctly. *Happened*, occurred. *Dim*, indistinct; bazy. *Why they went*, the object of their going. *It was*, the object of their journey was. *It may be so*, this may be correct. *May* denotes possibility. *The noblest deeds*, the most glorious actions. *For gold*, for the sake of money. *The Lord*, Jesus Christ, the saviour of mankind, according to Christians. *Came down*, was born. *Apostles*, the 12 disciples of Christ sent forth to preach the Gospel. *Preach*, proclaim. *The good news*, the Gospel (=A.S. *God*, good and *spell*, history, tidings) which declares that sinners will be saved if they believe in Jesus. *Looked for*, expected. *Reward*, recompense. *The Spartans..... money*, the Spartans did not hope to gain money. P. 61.

down to the last indent in triplicate for a tent peg that escaped his simple and enthusiastic boy scoutery. He was thorough. He was keen. He was hardworking. And he was honest. The authorities could hardly help noticing him.

As for his life in the mess he progressed unexpectedly well. It was, after all, not much more than an extension of the crowded family board in his own home and the communal atmosphere in which he had grown up at St. Paul's and Sandhurst. If he had no especial friends he had a certain impersonal gregariousness, and he was young enough to adjust himself. He drank a glass of port after dinner. He smoked occasionally. Once again his prowess at hockey and cricket gave him an *entrée*. And if occasionally he was isolated from the others by his religious fervour, his genuine simplicity of habit and his undercurrent ambition, he had at least become an accepted member of the regiment.

The Warwicks was not a fashionable regiment. The great families of England sent their sons to regiments like the Guards, the Hussars or the Rifle Brigade. Nor did the Warwicks offer much opportunity for quick promotion. The turn-over in older officers was slow and the young lieutenant had to wait years for a captaincy. Moreover, it so happened that the north-west frontier was quiet at this time; a spell of fighting against the tribesmen had just come to an end and there was no opportunity for gaining distinction in the field. Steadily and enthusiastically Second-Lieutenant Montgomery plugged away with his little section in a world of dust and mule carts, of boiling heat and leave in the hill stations, of regimental sports and Homeric arguments in the mess. Little by little the family background faded away. The important thing was to pass the Transport Course and qualify at musketry. By now he had grown to his full physical stature, and although he looked a good deal more robust than he did later in life he was no heavy-weight. He was five feet eight inches in height, under eleven stone in weight, his face was thin and pointed and there was already an air of tautness, a curiously quick and bird-like quality in the way he held himself. In the end the word for him, one supposes, was wiry. It was not an intellectual or especially sensitive or good-looking face, but it was interesting if only for the fact that it expressed a certain wariness, and it gave the impression that there was something held back. For a man who had devoted a great part of his life to British sports he was spectacularly lacking in heartiness. In the early regimental photographs he sits among the jutting jaws and the massively folded arms like an alert fox-terrier

own sphere of activity. *Dragons*, fabulous monsters; hence, powerful and strong obstacles. *Ere it be ours*, before we can obtain it. *Each of us.....be ours*, all of us have to seek heaven and pass over the stormy sea of life, and encounter and overcome a thousand temptations before we can reach it. The whole is a sustained metaphor; heaven is compared to the Golden Fleece; our earthly life to a stormy sea; and the temptations that a pious soul has to encounter, to a dragon like the one which guarded the Golden Fleece of the Argonauts.

Nor cure, nor am I anxious about the fact. *Hellens*, the old and original name of the Greeks. *Colchis*, the modern Circassia, is a mountainous district on the eastern coast of the Black sea. *Nailed*, fastened by a nail. *Beech-tree*, a kind of tree. *In the war God's wood*, in a grove dedicated to the War-God Ares. *The Euxine Sea*, the Black Sea. *The Cloud-Nymph*, i.e. Nephele. She is so called because Nephele was changed into a cloud. *Athamas*, king of Orchomenus in Boeotia, who at the command of Hera, married Nephele, by whom he became the father of Phrixus and Helle. But he was secretly in love with the mortal Ino, the daughter of Cadmus, by whom he begot Learchus and Melicertes. *The Minyai* were an ancient Greek tribe dwelling in Thessaly. *Famine*, scarcity of food. *Came upon*, visited. *When.....land*, when the country was visited by a famine. There is another version of this story. The children of Nephele were to succeed their father by right of birth. Ino therefore conceived an immortal hatred against her and she caused the city of Thebes to be visited by a pestilence by poisoning all the grain which had been sown in the earth. Upon this the Oracle was consulted, and as it had been bribed by Ino the answer was that Nephele's sons should be immolated to the gods. *Step-mother*, a mother by marriage only. *Sacrificed*, offered. *Altar*, the place where sacrifices are offered. *To turn away*, to avert. P. 63. *Then madness.....Athamas*, then the foolish king Athamas became insane. *Fury*, anger. *Dolphin*, a kind of fish of various colours. *Little one*, offspring. *Clasped*, held close.

Drove out, expelled. *Roamed*, wandered. *In his misery*, in a wretched condition. *Delphi*, a small town in Phocis, but one of the most celebrated in Greece on account of the oracle of Apollo. Its prophecies were delivered in Hexametrical verses and exercised a great influence in

watched. As for his seniors, now they reported on him most favourably. He was a little headstrong and argumentative perhaps, a little too apt to take decisions into his own hands, but he did the job thoroughly. He was keen. It was an agreeable thing for a hot and busy captain to hand over the more dreary of his duties to the young lieutenant and know they would be well done. Each one of these crumbs of authority Montgomery gathered up eagerly and cherished. He applied for promotion to captain and began to study in earnest. By mid 1911 he was passing his qualifying subjects with regularity and apparent ease.

Meanwhile the sports went on. He was officer in charge of games. He became secretary of the sailing committee of the yacht club and sailed his own boat, the *Antelope*. *The Times* of India for November 21st, 1910, speaks of his winning a handicap race by unorthodox methods vaguely reminiscent of his boyhood jaunts in the Atlantic in search of conger eels. Furthermore—and this was distinctly erratic for an officer in India in 1910—he purchased a second-hand motor-cycle. In that era of horses and regimental decorum his senior officers were pained to see him, covered in grime and with an air of desperate seriousness, careering through the native quarters of Bombay.

There was also the incident of the *Gneisenau*, which came into Bombay with the German Crown Prince on board. Montgomery formed part of the guard of honour, and then, as games officer, hurried off to field his football team in a friendly match against the Germans. Etiquette counted for a good deal in 1911. Higher instructions were that the Germans should be treated with hospitality and decorum. Since the Warwicks' football team was a notable combination Montgomery was instructed to field only a second-class side. It was apparent, however, as the British and German staffs sat watching the game, that something had gone painfully wrong. The Warwicks won forty goals to nil. Montgomery was summoned to report to his colonel. He confessed that against orders he had fielded all his best players, and he added "I was not taking any risks with Germans".

In November 1911 his three years of service was up, and he sailed in the *Plassy* for six months' leave in England.

Nothing very much had happened at Chiswick. The family life still revolved steadily around Mrs. Montgomery. The Bishop was gently rising to the height of his influence in the Church. One other child, Desmond, had died as a schoolboy at St. Paul's, but the rest of the children were growing up as

proximity or nearness. *Bœotia*, a district of ancient Greece. *Step-brother*, a brother only by marriage, not descended from the same parents on both sides. *Pelias*, son of Poseidon and Tyro. Poseidon once visited Tyro in the form of the river god Enipeus with whom she was in love, and she became by him the mother of Pelias and Neleus. To conceal her shame, their mother exposed the two boys but their life was preserved by shepherds. They subsequently learnt their parentage and after the death of Cretheus king of Iolcos, who had married their mother they seized the throne of Iolcos to the exclusion of Aeson the son of Cretheus and Tyro. After Jason's return from the Argonautic expedition Pelias was cut to pieces and boiled by his own daughters at the instigation of Medea who had promised to restore him to youth by her incantations as soon as his limbs were put into a caldron of boiling water. *Dark*, suspicious; mysterious. *Cast out*, exposed. *Mare*, the female of the horse. *Came by*, came near him. *All blackened*, completely blackened. *Bruised* injured; contused. *Fierce*, ferocious. *Lawless*, uncontrolled. *Took... himself*, made himself king.

Leading, taking. *Vineyards*, pieces of ground devoted to the cultivation of the vine. *Olive*, a kind of fruit bearing tree. *Groves*, collections of trees. *Torrent*, a strong, swift stream. *Anauros*, a river of Thessaly flowing into the Pagasæan gulf. *Pelion*, a lofty range of mountains in Thessaly situated between lake Bœbeis and the Pagasæan gulf. Near the summit was the cave of the Centaur Cheiron whose residence was probably placed here on account of the number of the medicinal plants which grew upon the mountain. *Whose brows... snow*, whose top is covered with snow.

Went up and up, climbed up. P. 66. *Marsh*, swampy ground. *Crags*, pieces of rock jutting out from the mountain. *Down*, a tract of barren land. *Tired*, wearied; exhausted. *Footsore*, having painful feet from much walking. *To bear*, to carry. *Came to*, reached. *The mouth*, entrance. *Foot*, base.

Dripping, falling in drops. *Cracking*, bursting. *Above*,sun wreaths of snow were hanging above the cliff, from which water was dropping as they were melted by the heat of the sun. *Ranged in order*, properly arranged. *Each.....itself*, each variety in a separate bed. *Sort*,

was entrenched. In 1914 Montgomery was not yet 27. All his life he had been surrounded by apparently unshakable institutions; the supremacy of the British Empire, the Church, the Army, the Family, everything moved inexorably forward in its predestined groove. Life, to be sure, could be interrupted in its normal course by sickness, by accident, by debauchery or sudden poverty, but for the rest it was a sane and well-ordered world. No young officer in the Army saw any need to set the Thames on fire. Politics were a thing apart, a slightly unsavoury business best left alone. Because they had no information and no particular interest Montgomery and his friends held no decided views as a rule on the Irish question, Trades Unions, Colonial Government or Britain's foreign policy. They read no controversial books. A dozen heated quarrels about Impressionism in art, or Marxism in the modern state, or the balance of power in Europe might rage over their heads without their ever being aware that such matters existed. The average middle-class boy of the governing class had his ideas of the world in general handed out to him pat and ready made; and usually the Army or the Bank or some other institution swept him along with the tide, evoked and engaged his interest in the existing order of things, before he could branch out and think for himself. If you were in the Army you stuck to that and kept your nose out of other people's business. If you were an officer you were almost automatically Conservative, Church of England and a horseman—or at least interested in cricket. It was "not done" to write, to paint, to engage in business or become exercised over political theory.

Montgomery's struggle had been purely personal. He had rebelled in varying degrees against his family, his schools and the Army, not to establish any abstract idea, nor to alter the order of things, but as an individualist who simply disliked any authority except his own. Latterly he had begun to engraft on to this somewhat anarchistic strain an enthusiasm for soldiering. With this enthusiasm came the obvious desire for experimentation and reform; but it was experiment and reform within the existing rules. He would have been shocked at the notion of abolishing the authority of parents. He would have regarded anyone who called the Army a ruthless imperialistic machine as a dangerous mutineer.

His struggle with the family was now over. He had successfully made his way in the Army. It was a passive and balanced moment in his life, a lacuna in the upward climb. The long scale of promotions stretched inevitably ahead. He was agitated by no love affairs or private worries of any con-

Siege, the setting of an army around or before a fortified place for the purpose of compelling the garrison to surrender. *Noble*, glorious. *Plenty*, abundance. *Equal justice*, impartial administration of the law. *Wide eyed*, with his eyes wide open. *Errand*, mission. *Forgot*..... song, he was so allured by the song that he forgot why he was sent there.

Was silent, finished his song. Page 68. *Befallen*, happened. *Afar*, at a great distance. *Left the town*, started from the town. *Æson the Æolid*, Æson of the family of Æolus. *Æolus*, was the son of Hellen and the nymph Orseis. He was the ruler of Thessaly and the founder of the Æolic branch of the Greek nation. *Try*, test. *Dare venture*, was bold enough to run the risk. *Entreat*, beseech. *By Father Zeus*, 'by' denotes adjuration. *Let*..... guest, keep the boy with you. *Till better times*, till more favourable times. *Train*, educate. *That* denotes purpose. *Avenge his father's house*, avenge the injury done to his ancestor. *Drew*.....him, called the boy near him. *Laid*.....locks, patted him on the head. *Locks*, tresses. *Are you afraid of*, do you fear. *Will you be*, do you wish to be.

Sundown, sunset. *Till sundown*, till sunset. *Worthy to rule*, capable of ruling. *Gallant*, brave.

Turned to, addressed. *Go back in peace*, return without any anxiety. Page 69. *Bend before the storm*, bear your misfortune meekly; bow to the will of God. The metaphor is taken from the bending of saplings when a storm blows. *Prudent*, (L. *Pro* forward and *video* I see), wise. *Cross*, go beyond. *A glory*, an object of pride. *The house*, the family or dynasty. *Fancy*, imagination; mind. *So full*.....of, so absorbed was he in the thought of it. *To play*, an instrument is to perform music upon it. *Sank*, went down. *Outside*, at the entrance to the cave. *Æneas*, the son of Anchises and Aphrodite, was born on mount Ida. According to Homer, he was educated, not by Cheiron, but Alcathous, the husband of his sister, at Dardanus. *Heracles*, or Hercules, the most celebrated of all the heroes of antiquity. His exploits were celebrated not only in all the countries round the Mediterranean, but even in the most distant parts of the ancient world. For a further account of his life, see notes on p. 173. *Peleus*, king of the Myrmidons in Thessaly, and father of Achilles.

year would go by before anyone had any time again. Very few of that generation would be able to climb back into the prosperous valleys of the Edwardian days. But an afterglow and a delusion persisted. "At least," Montgomery said to himself as he packed his tennis clothes, "the thing will be over in three weeks."

some special gift by Athene and Apollo. *Worthy*, estimable; excellent. *Each is.....place*, each excels in his own line. *An honor beyond all honors*, the most distinguished position.

Split it, broke it into pieces. *Blazing*, shining; bright. *Skinned*, removed the skin from. *Quartered them*, cut them. *Set*, placed. *To roast*, to be fried. *Venison*, (*Venezn*) the flesh of deer. *Was cooking*, was being roasted. This is an example of a Verb Active in form but Passive in sense. *The snow torrent*, stream formed by the melting of snow. *Sweat*, perspiration.

Ate till.....more, ate till they had no appetite. *Tasted*, eaten. *The dawn*, the morning. *Remnants*, what food was left. *Put away*, kept aside. *In turn*, one after the other. *With.....heart*, heartily. *A plot of grass*, a small extent of ground covered with grass. *Boxed*, played at boxing. *Boxing* is an active exercise consisting in fighting with the fist.

P. 72. *Joined hands*, took hold of each other's hands. *Played*, performed music upon the harp. *To his measure*, in harmony with the tune he played. *Measure*, is the division of time by which the movements of music are regulated. *In and out*, backwards and forwards. *Round and round*, circularly. *Till the night.....sea*, till it was dark. *Gleam*, lustre.

The lad, the son of Æson. *Wholesome*, healthv; refreshing. *Fragrant*, sweet-scented. *Bay, myrtle, marjoram and thyme* are various kinds of aromatic plants. *Rose*, awoke. *Cunning* is here used in its original sense of "skilful." *Keen hungry mountain air*, bracing air of the mountains. *To mount him*, to take him up. *Virtues*, qualities. *Jason*, the celebrated leader of the Argonauts, was a son of Æson who was deprived of his kingdom by his half brother Pelias. For fear of Pelias, Æson carried him to Mt. Pelion where he was brought up by the Centaur Cheiron. When he grew up, he was one day entrapped in conversation by Pelias and promised to bring the Golden Fleece. He went on this expedition with the Argonauts and obtained the fleece with the assistance of Medeia, and returned to Iolcos. On his return he found that his father had been slain by Pelias, and asked Medeia to avenge the wrong, who thereupon persuaded the daughters of Pelias to cut their father to pieces and boil him in

Minister in London, at the next a commander in the field in Belgium.

On an undated day in October Asquith noted blandly in his diary: "Having, as he (Churchill) says, tasted blood these last few days, he is beginning, like a tiger, to rave for more, and begs that, sooner or later—the sooner the better—he may be relieved of his present office and put in some kind of military command. I told him that he could not be spared from the Admiralty but he scoffs at that . . . his mouth waters at the sight of Kitchener's new armies. Are these 'glittering commands' to be entrusted to 'dugout trash' bred on the obsolete tactics of twenty-five years ago, 'mediocrities' who have led a sheltered life mouldering in military routine, etc. etc.? For about a quarter of an hour he poured forth a ceaseless cataract of invective and appeal and I much regretted there was no shorthand writer within hearing, as some of his unpremeditated phrases were quite priceless."¹

Along with the rest Lieutenant Montgomery was swept into the cataclysm. He was hustled from Sheppey (where the territorials took over) to Shorncliffe, then up to York (as a minor cog in the 4th Division). Then down to Harrow where the 10th Brigade under Brigadier-General Haldane finally formed up and embarked at Southampton for France on August 22nd. The date is interesting. They had missed the first awful clash with the Germans at Mons and were now plunging into the midst of a retreat.

Early on August 23rd they landed in Boulogne and the 10th Brigade (with Montgomery) raced full tilt to get into the fighting that was rapidly coming towards them. On the 24th they reached Le Cateau and at 2 o'clock in the following morning, barely forty-eight hours after leaving England, they made contact with the enemy outside the town and ran blindly upon him.

There was no plan. Section leaders were simply told, "Attack that hill". Up they rushed waving their swords. At that time the quota of machine-guns to each battalion was two. The casualties were frightful. Montgomery, charging ahead with C Company got on to the hill and presently, along with everyone else, was flung off it again, having achieved nothing whatever. Captain Day, the Company commander, fell wounded and Montgomery decided to go back with two men and bring him in. They found the captain lying with a broken leg on the hillside and somehow struggled back as far as a church where they dumped him with the other wounded. By now their

¹ *Memories and Reflections*, by the Earl of Oxford and Asquith, K.G.

Arcadian stag, which had golden horns and brazen feet and which was captured alive by Heracles and carried to Mycenæ, (4). *Destruction of the Erymanthian boar*, which had descended from Mt. Erymanthus into Psopbis, and which Heracles captured after chasing through the snow and thus wearing him out. (5) *Cleansing of the stables of Augeus*, king of Elis, which contained 3000 oxen and had not been cleansed for 30 years. (6) *Destruction of the Stympthalian birds*, the voracious animals that had been brought up by Ares. (7) *Capture of the Cretan bull*. (8) *Capture of the mares of the Thracian Diomedes*, who fed his horses with human flesh. The mares were afterwards set free and destroyed on Mount Olympus by wild beasts. (9) *Seizure of the girdle of the Queen of the Amazons*, who had received it from Ares. Heracles brought this girdle for Admete the daughter of Eurystheus, who wished to obtain and wear it. (10) *Capture of the oxen of Geryones in Erythia*. (11) *Fetching the Golden Apples of the Hesperides*. These were the apples which Hera had received from Ge as her marriage present and which she had entrusted to the keeping of the Hesperides and the dragon Ladon, on Mt. Atlas in the country of the Hyperboreans. (12) *Bringing Cerberus from the Lower World*, Cerberus was the three headed dog who guarded the door of Pluto's kingdom of the Lower World. *Peleus had married a Sea-Nymph &c.*, Peleus had involuntarily killed a companion of his in the Calydonian hunt, and fled to Iolcos, where he was purified by Acastus the king of the place. While at Iolcos, where he was accused by Astydemia, wife of Acastus, of having attempted to violate her chastity though it was she herself who had made the proposals which were rejected by Peleus. Peleus was then led to Mt. Pelion by Acastus who left him there in order that the Centaurs might kill him. He was saved by Cheiron; and while on Mt. Pelion, married the Sea-Nymph Thetis by whom he became the father of Achilles. All the gods were present at the ceremony except *Eris*, the goddess of Discord. *Many...him*, in the *Aeneid*. *The time*, the time at which Jason was to leave Pelion. P. 74. *Breed, rear. Boibe.* or *Bolbe* is a lake in Macedonia. At present the lake is about 12 miles long and 6 miles wide. *Peneus and Tempe*; *Tempe* is a beautiful and romantic valley in the north of Thessaly between Mounts Olympus and Ossa. *The moun-*

In the morning he led his platoon in a bayonet charge on the village of Meteren. They carried the objective, but the enemy fire still continued from farther back where German sharpshooters were sniping out of the houses. Montgomery was standing up in the pouring rain reorganizing his platoon on the newly won ground when a rifle bullet entered his chest on the right-hand side from the back and passed entirely through his body. As he fell in the mud a man ran to him with a bandage, but he, too, was hit. Mortally wounded in the head he fell across Montgomery's body and the two of them lay there, one on top of the other, while the Germans continued to shoot bullets into them. Montgomery was struck a second time in the knee. He now was entirely unable to move, but he was still conscious and he shouted to the rest of his men to remain under cover. It was barely three in the afternoon and clearly no one could venture into that open space before nightfall. For the next three hours Montgomery lay motionless under the dead man in a welter of blood and mud while the rain poured down and the bullets passed by and life slowly drained out of him. At nightfall two men came out and got him. Hardly conscious, he was slung in a greatcoat, passed through a hedge and got to the forward dressing-station.

He was now in a shocking condition, badly wounded in one lung and scarcely alive. Indeed in that nightmarish place in the midst of the firing, with so many others wounded and dying, he seemed to be dead. Another officer who was brought in just ahead of him had already expired and orderlies were set to work digging graves for both of them. With some slight unconscious movement Montgomery attracted the doctor's attention. He was re-examined and it was decided that since he had a bare chance of living he was worth putting into an ambulance. Montgomery woke up in a hospital in England to find that he had been made a captain and awarded the D.S.O.

Moreover he was surviving. The years of Tasmanian fresh air, of endless sport and his natural hardiness began to build him up. True, one lung was permanently affected. He would have to control his diet. Tobacco smoke would tend to make him cough and his voice was weak. But for the rest he was whole again and fit at least for staff duties in the field. On the whole he rather enjoyed hospital; it was the first period of enforced idleness and rest he had ever known—and perhaps the only

small pieces of melting snow floating on its surface. *Boulders*, rounded pieces of stone. *Rumbling*, moving with a dinning noise. *Tramp*, clatter. *Roll*, circular motion. *Ground...channel*, moved rubbing against the narrow bed of the river.

Whined...more, cried still more plaintively. *For Hera's sake*, in the name of Hera. *Scornfully*, in a contemptuous tone. *When...mind*, when he remembered what Cheiron had told him. *Midway*, in the middle of the stream. *Nimbly*, agilely. *Staggered in*, moved forward reeling under the weight. *Waist*, the part above the loins. *The first step was &c.*, the water reached to his knees as he took the first step and up to his waist as he took the second. *Panting*, breathing heavily. *Mantle*, overcoat. *Make game of*, make fun of; jest with.

Page. 77. *Had half a mind*, was half inclined. *By herself*, alone. *Patience*, have patience; be patient. *Stumble*, take a false step. *The beast.....day*, a mistake may be made by anybody. *Needed to have been*, must have been. *Wild water*, raging water.

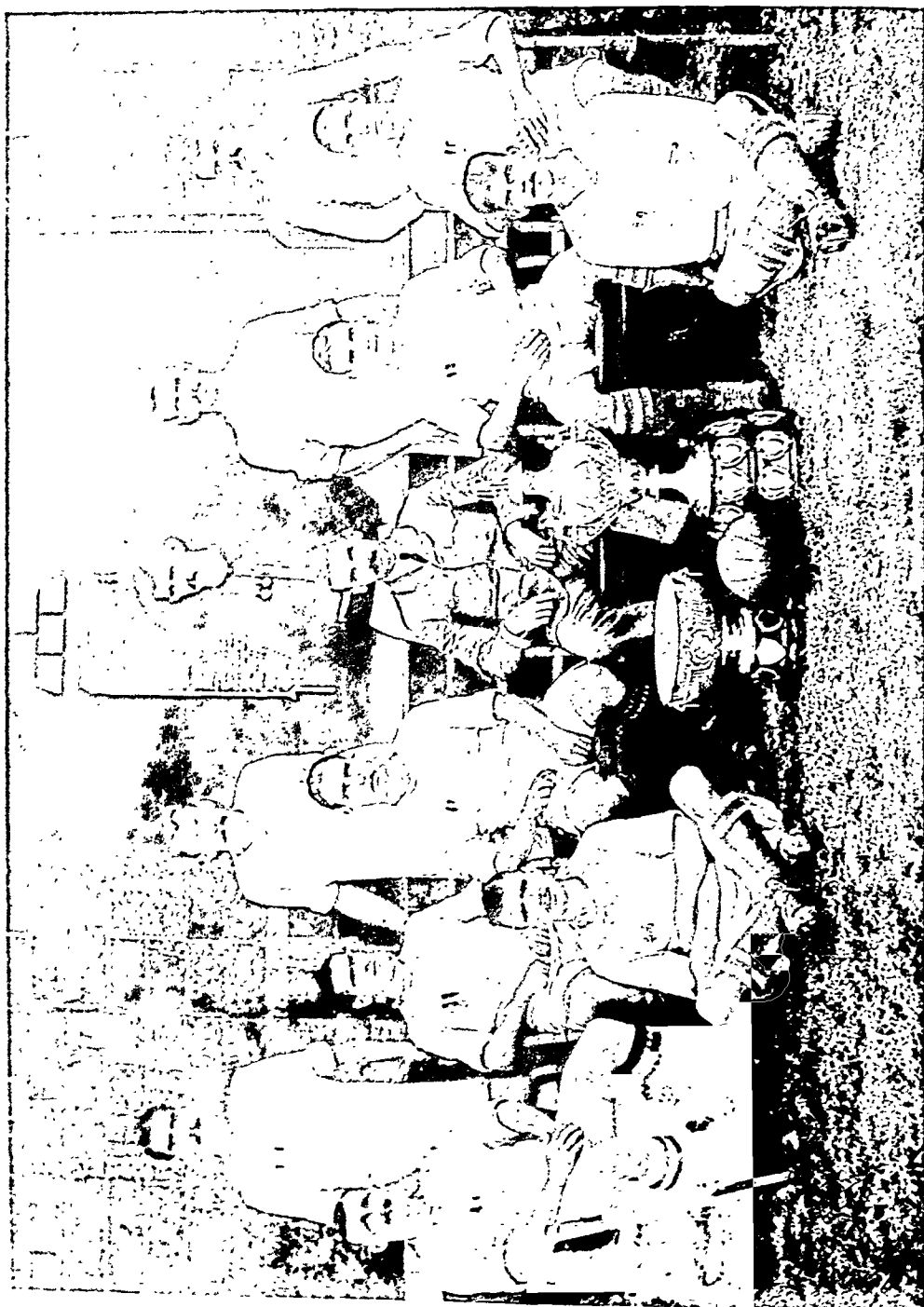
Garments, clothes. *Shone*, glittered. *Veil*, a screen of thin gauze to hide or protect the face. *Woven of*, formed by weaving. *Heifer*, the female of the ox. *With.....eyes*, mildly and benevolently.

Fell...knees, knelt down. *Hide*, concealed; Past Tense of "Hide." *Done to me*, acted for me. *Call on me*, ask my assistance. *In the hour of need*, when you need help. *Try*, test. *Try.....forget*, test the gratitude of the gods.

P. 78. *Rose*, ascended. *Pillar*, column. *Floated away*, flew away. *Peaks*, summits; tops.

P. 79. *A great.....Jason*, Jason was overawed. *He grew...heart*, he became free from anxiety. *Blessed*, prayed for the happiness of. *Guessed*, knew; surmised. *Come to pass*, happen. *The elders*, the more aged; the seniors. It should be parsed as a noun. *Errand*, business.

Started, was alarmed. *The oracle*, the prophecy. *What.....sandal*, what has that to do with my sandal. *Struggling with*, wading with difficulty through. P. 80. *Rush upon*, meet. *Ruin*, destruction. *Unawares*, without being warned. *Lest.....unawares*, or else you might suddenly ruin yourself. *Take*, wrest. *Beware*, be careful. *Most cunning*, most artful.



MONTGOMERY AS SPORTS OFFICER, BOMBAY

After, in search of. *You would.....more*, he would no longer be able to trouble you. *At that*, on hearing Jason's words. *Bitter*, cruel. *Came across*, crossed. *Flash*, gleam. *At that.....his eyes*, on hearing Jason's words, Pelias smiled cruelly and his eyes shone with wicked joy. *Warning*, advice. *Over.. came*, he recollected. *Was.....trap*, had fallen into a snare. *Gently*, mildly; kindly. *Forthwith*, immediately.

You mean me? do you mean to say that I am the man who shall be sent to bring the Golden Fleece. *Starting up*, jumping up. P. 84. *Lifted his fist angrily*, raised his closed hand in anger, as if he were going to strike a blow. *Fist*, is the hand with the fingers closed over the palm. *Stood up to him*, stood opposite to him. *At bay*, in a state of opposition. Animals are said to *stand at bay* when escape being impossible they face their pursuers. *Bay* is derived from the French *aboi* barking, and literally means "the extremity to which the stag is reduced when surrounded by the dogs barking (*aboyant*)," hence, a state of being obliged to face the enemy when escape has become impossible. *It would.....tell*, it was difficult to decide. *It* refer "whether.....fiercer."

Why then so rash, why are you rash enough to oppose me. *Blame*, reproach; find fault with. *What.....now*, there is no harm if I do as you suggest. *To win*, to acquire. *Immortal*, undying. *To win ...fame*, to become famous for ever. *Harmed*, injured. *That gladly*, i.e., he will go gladly. *That* is a Demonstrative Pronoun used for the clause "he will go." *Has.....him*, is as brave as a hero. *Scorning*, despising. *To break*, to violate. *Word*, promise.

Entrapped, caught in a trap; ensnared. *What.....in that also*, what if the Centaur's prophecy be fulfilled in that case also. *Keep to*, stand by. *In return*, in exchange. *Keep your word*, fulfil your promise. *Treat*, deal with. *I am gone*, I am absent. *For the sake of*, in the name of. *All-seeing*, he who sees all. P. 85. *For my own*, as my own.

In the midst.....hate, though he hated him so much; in spite of all his hate. *A great oath*, a solemn oath. *Sworethem*, stated on oath that they would keep their promises. *Could not sleep*, was unable to sleep. *For*, on account of. *Thinking of*, pondering upon. *His mighty oath*, his solemn oath to bring the Golden Fleece. *Howit*, the way in which he could redeem the pledge. *All*

right or wrong? Having taken a decision he stuck to it blindly, persistently and, at times, bigotedly. And all his subsequent dealings with the subject were on the same simple level. All the doubtings and misgivings and half interests and desires which lie at the periphery of a normal young man's mind, did not exist here. There was no outer periphery to Montgomery's mind. His mental world, like the world of the geographer of the Middle Ages, was flat. If you went past the edge you fell off. Ruthlessly, calmly and clearly he lopped away all the impedimenta that he judged were without importance to his life. Other things might exist but he was not interested. No point in investigating them. Stick to what you wanted. When it was necessary to advance into unexplored country plan a campaign in advance. Never get beyond the reach of your bases. Clear up the new country entirely before you set out again.

This incisive logic—a logic that sometimes excluded evidence—was already giving him immense advantages over other young men of the same age. He concentrated. He rarely squandered time in the pursuit of hobbies or half-hearted pleasures. Everything in Montgomery's life was done with a purpose and persisted in to the bitter and sometimes barren end. He rarely made conscious emotional judgments. As for the small prejudices he was born with (for example he disliked cats and he did not eat fish), he never investigated them. They existed and that was that.

At twenty-eight he was developing the fixity of mind and purpose of a man ten years his senior and he was far beyond his age in everything except experience. It was this that gave him a bearing that sometimes lacked charm and suppleness and patience—unless by chance you happened to be on the right side of his mental fence; and then he was capable of a precise consideration and indulgence that made him a remarkable friend.

From 1915 onwards there is an irresistible comparison with General Gordon of Khartoum in everything but one major particular. The same compact and wiry frame, the same rigid almost fanatical set of the head, the Bible reading and the stark emotional fervour, the contempt for convention and authority, the self-assurance and the ruthless determination, the quick outbursts of charm and generosity, the restlessness and the misogyny, the physical bravery and the impatience and quarrelsomeness, the indifference to money and the love of praise, the compelling instinct towards leadership, the painstaking study and the asceticism, and finally, sublimating all

the goddess of the sea, who had been brought up by Hera, and given in marriage to Peleus by whom she became the mother of Achilles. P. 89. *Telamon*, a brother of Peleus and one of the Argonauts. He became king of Salamis on the death of his father-in-law, and afterwards married *Euriboea*, by whom he became the father of Ajax the Great. *Oileus*, a king of the Lacrians, and married to *Eriope*, by whom he became the father of the lesser Ajax. *The two Aiantes*, the greater and the lesser Ajax. *Aiantes* is the plural of Ajax. *Mopsus*, son of Ampyx by the nymph *Chloris*. Being a seer, he was also called a son of Apollo. He was one of the Argonauts and a famous prophet among them. He died of the bite of snake in the desert of Libya and was buried by the Argonauts. *Soothsayer*, prophet; seer. *Knew*, understood. *Idmon*, son of Apollo, was a soothsayer and accompanied the Argonauts, although he knew beforehand that death awaited him. *Phæbus*, another name of Apollo. *To whom...to come*, who was gifted by Apollo with the power of making predictions. *Ancaios*, there were two persons of this name who have been confounded with each other. The one was the son of *Lycurgus* and took part in the Argonautic expedition. The other was a son of *Poseidon* by *Samia* the wife of the king of *Samos*. He was also one of the Argonauts, and is said to have become the helmsman of the *Argo* after the death of *Tiphys*. *Read the stars*, observe the heavens in order to foretell the future. *The circles of the heavens*, the heavens were divided into twelve divisions by astrologers, each of which was called a house or circle. *Argus*, the builders of the *Argo* son of *Phrixus*, was sent by *Aietes*, his grandfather, after the death of *Phrixus*, to take possession of his inheritance in Greece. On his voyage thither he suffered shipwreck, was found by Jason in the island of *Aretias*, and carried back to *Colchis*. *Famed*, celebrated. *Dyed*, colored. *Crests*, the feathers worn on a helmet. *Embroidered*, adorned with raised needlework. *Shirt*, undergarment. *Linen*, a kind of cotton cloth. *Coat of mail*, armor for the body. *Greaves* (L. *geavis*, heavy) armor for the legs; used only in the plural. *Polished*, burnished. *Guard*, protect. *Fold*, layer. *Tough*, not easily broken. *Hide*, the raw skin of an animal. *Tempered*, reduced to a proper degree of hardness. *Silver-studded belt*, belt thickly set with pieces of silver. *Ash-staves*, poles cut out of the branches of an ash-tree.

writing and the junior planners were left to work out the details of the local tactics. When he went forward Montgomery no longer had personal command or any opportunity for inspirational leadership. Yet he was gulping in experience at a tremendous rate, and now with all his oddities he was regarded as an exceptionally able soldier. Eight times he was mentioned in dispatches. He had no time to argue. No authority to criticize. But the long urgent tide of work ran on and he seemed destined eventually for high command. Then the war stopped, and with it all promotion. As a major with the rank of GSO2 Montgomery went into Germany with the British forces of occupation, their headquarters at Cologne. As the British advanced into the zone the Germans fell back; little or nothing happened to guide the Allies in their future dealing with Germany. The British never penetrated beyond the borders of their zone. Somewhere in the interior of the Reich the German Army, still more or less intact, still resentful, went its own way.

3

In all the inevitable repugnance to war and soldiering that swept the world in 1919 Montgomery had no part. The jazz era rose to its height, the world of bobbed hair and short skirts, of cocktails and cars, of cynicism and exhausted disillusionment, of the restless and hysterical clutching at little pleasures, and of dancing, dancing, dancing. Montgomery remained tucked in his little military world, hopelessly out of tune with the times, labouring at a career which was regarded as outmoded and bottomlessly dull. He was that ridiculously anomalous figure, a soldier without a war in a world hating war. While pacifism and disarmament and a Wilsonesque perfectionism and idealism captured nearly every intellectual brain, he went on plodding solemnly at his indents and drills. Furthermore, he was enthusiastic about it.

The reasons for this were neither political nor emotional, nor really prophetic. He was not moved by a blind and unrelenting desire for revenge. He did not clearly foresee that the Germans would rise again. His knowledge of politics was weak, to say the most of it. The idea of mass slaughter appealed to him no more than to anyone else; and his basic Christianity subscribed to all the ideals of a League of Nations and the concept of peace and goodwill to all men.

But something else intervened: he could not bring himself to believe in peace. War, to his mind, was as inevitable as

that he should not look back upon her restored wife, till they had arrived in the upper world. At the very moment when they were about to pass the fatal bounds he forgot the condition and looked round to see if Eurydice was following him. He saw her but she instantly vanished from his eyes. Maddened by the grief of his wife's loss, Orpheus wandered about for a long time, visiting Egypt and the Libyan desert; till at last he settled down in Thrace. *Caliope*, the muse of lyric poetry. *Delivered me*, freed me from my madness. *Among*, surrounded by. *Softening*, making gentle. *Ends*, limits. *Misty*, hazy. *Darkness*, gloom. *To the last wave*, to the boundaries. *To* denotes extent or limit. *The Eastern Sea*, the Black Sea. *Doomed*, destined. *Must be*, shall surely come to pass. *Demand*, request. *A friend's demand obeyed*, I must comply with your request, as you are my friend. *Prayers.....Zeus*, prayers have sprung from Zeus. *Who.....him*, he who complies with the request of a friend, honours Zeus. The antecedent of the Relative *who* has here been omitted.

Went over, crossed. *Habacnion*, an important river in Macedonia. *Spurs*, projections. *A spur* is a mountain that shoots from any other mountain, and extends to some distance. *Pindus*, a lofty range of mountains in Northern Greece. *Dodona*, the most ancient Oracle in Greece, was situated in Epirus. It was dedicated to Zens. *The sacred lake*, the lake of Joannina. *The fountain...fire*, there was at Dodona an orifice from which a flame occasionally issued. *The black dove settled in old times &c.*, it was believed that the command to found the oracle was at first brought from Zeus by pigeons. P. 91. *Gave.....round*, prophesied future events to all the tribes. *A bough*, a large branch of a tree. *Beak-head*, the topmost part of the beak. *A beak* is that part of a ship, which is fastened to the stem and supported by the main knee.

Finished, completed. *To launch.....beach*, to cause her to move from the land into the water. *She was.....her*, she was so heavy that they could not move her. *Knee* the lowermost part of a ship. *Blushing*, ashamed. *I can.....need*, it can help us in this difficulty.

A voice...bough, the bough spoke. *Waited round*, stood round the ship. *Rollers*, a cylinder of wood, stone &c. used in moving heavy objects. *To help her*, to push her. *To ride upon the surges*, to sail over the waves. The surges are

leading rebels were killed or caught; and Lloyd George having got his truce, withdrew the British troops.

From the soldier's point of view Montgomery had added one more valuable page of experience to his now definitely shaping career. The Cork Brigade under General Higginson had been a large affair of nine battalions, and as brigade-major, Montgomery had had a large area of control. His promotion in rank was not affected—indeed it took him sixteen years in the slowly grinding military machine to get back to the rank he had held in the war.

This was the time—the early nineteen-twenties—of ruthless retrenchment in the Service budgets. Disarmament governed all. Regular officers were being “axed” right and left and many felt themselves lucky if they got out with a pension. The hectic backwash into peace had even gone to the point where army officers returning from France were heckled in London streets, called warmongers; and in a world of growing hunger and unemployment, they were accused of hanging on to safe and idle jobs at the public expense. It was the final swing of the pendulum from the days when hysterical women went about offering white feathers to civilians.

Gloom and lethargy pervaded the Army. Sorrowfully brigadier-generals unpicked the red tabs and the pips from their uniforms. There were no longer enough senior jobs to go round. Battalions going out for service in India frequently numbered generals and colonels among their majors and captains; and Montgomery suffered along with the rest.

From Ireland he was shifted to the same duties with the 3rd Division stationed at Plymouth. By now he was becoming known inside the Regular Army as an unusually assertive and busy officer, a little odd, a little too ready to take things into his own hands, but still hard-working and efficient. At Plymouth he had the luck to fall in with a commanding officer whom he liked and admired and, what was better still, a man who would also give him a certain amount of rope to play with. Brigadier-General S. E. Hollond seemed to Montgomery to be full of the right ideas. He had definite theories about the art of war. He also believed that the basis of it all was to whip some enthusiasm into the junior officers. They should be made to see that soldiering was not a long wearisome routine from which one escaped gratefully to the mess at the end of the day. Drill had to be varied, manoeuvres made exciting, a sense of competition spread abroad. While the General planned and encouraged, his Brigade-Major, Montgomery, jumped into

took a solemn oath. *Stand by*, support. *Shrank back*, hesitated to meet a danger. *Turned traitor*, proved faithless. *Minister against*, punish. *Justice...him*, he shall be punished. *Erinnues*, or, as the Romans called them, the Furies, the avenging deities, were originally only a personification of the curses pronounced upon a criminal; but they gradually came to be regarded as divinities who punished men after death. *Track*, follow; pursue.

Lighted, set fire to. *Carcase*, dead body. *From..... forth*, ever since that day. *Three thousand years and more*, three thousand years ago and more. This is a peculiar construction. The Argonauts sailed in 1263 B.C. *Come and gone*, flourished and declined. *Many...earth*, many revolutions have taken place on the earth. *Armament*, a body of forces equipped for war. *To which*, compared to which. *To* denotes comparison, *The fameever*, that small ship *Argo*, has acquired an undying fame.

Past, along the coast of. *Sciathos*, a small island in the Ægean Sea, east of the Magnesian coast of Thessaly. *Sepius*, a promontory in the south-east of Thessaly in the district Magnesia. *Turned*, bent or directed their course. P. 95. *Up.....shore*, from the south to the north along the coast of Magnesia. *Crawled*, crept; moved slowly. *His caps of summer snow*, the tops of the mountain covered with snow even in the summer. *Yearned for*, eagerly desired to see. *Thought of*, remembered. *Gone by*, passed. *Schooling*, education; training. *Land*, cast anchor. *Climb*, ascend. *Fearful*, dangerous. *Who..... again*, it is not certain whether we shall ever see Pelion again. *Master*, tutor. *Blessing*, benediction. *Ere we start*, before we commence our journey. *Trains*, brings up. *Once*, formerly. *The son.....me*, the son I had by Thetis; viz., Achilles. *Brought*, bore; begot. *Timed*, subdued. *Stately*, magnificent. *I held.....ever*, I never let her go. *Took.....again*, resumed her original form. *Were.....bride*, married her. *Rulers of Olympus*, gods. *Came to our wedding*, witnessed our marriage. P. 96. *It is.....earth*, I shall see him very seldom upon earth. The reason of this is explained in the succeeding lines. *Famous.....short-lived*, he shall acquire much fame but his life will be short. *Flower of youth*, bloom of youth. *Die.....youth*, die while very young.

each case the objective was usually some obvious enemy strong-point like a hill or cross-roads.

It was the steam-roller method. Surprise did not count for much and stealth still less. Most commanders attempted to batter and numb the enemy by the preliminary bombardment and then demolish him with overwhelming numbers of infantrymen. Always the key to the battle was "Who has the greatest numbers, the most fire power?" The individual soldier counted for little. He was one among millions, and if he knew how to pull a trigger and run with his bayonet that was enough.

To Montgomery this was all wrong. The individual soldier, far from being an unconscious cypher among a million others, was the most important person in the battle. The utmost care and attention must be lavished upon him. He must be trained for many months beforehand. Instead of being kept in ignorance, his role in the fighting and the whole battle itself must be fully and clearly explained to him beforehand. He must never be used in the mass, blindly striking against another mass. Morale was everything, and the only way to achieve high morale was to make the soldier feel he was part of a team carrying out an intelligent plan that was bound to succeed. General officers, and especially the commander-in-chief, should mix freely with the men and talk to them frankly. They must stay up forward at the front leaving the working out of details of planning to their subordinate officers.

Under Montgomery's theory the old slogging match was out. Stealth and cunning were far more important than the massing of overwhelming numbers. One must never strike directly at important objectives, but go round them. The cutting edge of the Army must consist of strong highly trained and highly mobile columns, capable of making narrow but deep penetrations and then fanning out in the rear of the enemy line.

Every battle must be preceded by exhaustive reconnaissance to discover the enemy's weakest points. Elaborate deception plans must be drawn up to confuse the enemy on the timing and direction of the main thrust. Everything must be sacrificed to the object of getting in a quick deadly blow at the weak spot while the enemy was not looking. Nothing must be done until the whole operation was supplied and keyed to the last detail and every man perfectly aware of his part. Before the battle began every possible risk must be examined and provided for. To Montgomery a battle was as precise and technical an act as building a house, and no one should go into action until he was absolutely certain he was going to prevail.

Hesiod, in the beginning there was Chaos, then came Ge, Tartarus and *Eros* (Love) the fairest among the gods, who rules over the minds and the councils of gods and men. *Eros* was regarded as one of the fundamental causes in the formation of the world, which brought order and harmony among the various conflicting elements. Plato likewise calls him the oldest god. *Bowed*, bent; inclined. *Cracked*, broke into fissures. *Rang*, resounded. *To listen*, Gerundial Infinitive denoting purpose. *Forsook*, abandoned. *Hovered*, moved to and fro. *Clapt his hands together*, in token of approbation. *Beat*, struck. *For wonder*, being surprised. *For* denotes cause. P. 98. *One by one*, in turn. *Promised...renown*, prophesied that they would become very famous. *Left him*, parted from him. *Pious*, godly. *Watched*, observed. *Locks*, the hair on the crown of the head. *Strained*, exerted to their utmost. *They felt*, it seemed to them.

Long swell, large expanse. *Wooded*, covered with woods or forests. *Athos*, the mountainous peninsula that projects from Chalcidice in Macedonia. *Samothrace the sacred isle*, a small island in the north of the *Ægean Sea*. It was the chief seat of the worship of the Cabiri and was celebrated for its religious mysteries. *Lennows*, one of the largest islands in the *Ægean Sea*, was situated nearly midway between Mount Athos and the Hellespont. It was sacred to Hephaistos. *Hellespont*, the strait, now known as the Dardanelles, which joins the sea of Marmora with the *Ægean*. *Abydos*, a town on the Hellespont. The narrowest part of the Hellespont is called the strait of Abydos. *Propontis*, or the Marmora, is that part of the sea which lies between the straits of Bosphorus and Hellespont. *Cyzicus*, son of Aeneas, was king of the Dolions on the Propontis. (For his connection with the Argonauts see pp. 99 and 100 of the Text). *Dolions*, were a Pælasgic people in Mysia who dwelt between the rivers *Æsepus* and *Rhyndacus* and in the neighborhood of the town of Cyzicus. *Homer*, the great epic poet of Greece. His date and birth place are equally matters of dispute. He was the author of the two great epic poems, the *Iliad*, (describing the sieze and reduction of Troy by the Greeks) and the *Odyssey* (describing the wanderings of Ulysses on his return from Troy and way home). *Virgil*, a celebrated Roman epic poet, who lived in the first century B. C. He is the author of *Æneid*, (describing



BISHOP MONTGOMERY
The Field-Marshal's father

Mysia, Hylas went on shore to draw water from a fountain; but his beauty excited the love of the Naiads who drew him down into the water, and he was never seen again. Heracles endeavoured in vain to find him; and when he shouted out to the youth, the voice of Hylas was heard from the bottom of the well only like a faint echo, whence some say that he was actually metamorphosed into an echo, (Kingsley's account of the disappearance of Hylas is a little different) While Heracles was engaged in seeking his favorite the Argonauts sailed away, leaving him and his companion Polyphemus behind. *Slipped away*, departed secretly. *By stealth*, unknown. *Lost himself*, lost his way. *The water-nymphs*, the Naiads, i.e., the nymphs of fresh water, whether of rivers, lakes, brooks, or springs. *To be their playfellow*, to make him their companion. *Sought for*, looked after; endeavoured to find. *Shouting*, calling loudly. *Rang*, echoed; resounded. *Far.....lake*, (as he was) at the bottom of the bright deep lake. *Sprang up*, began to blow. *The noble Phasian stream*, the river Phasis, which rose in the Moschice mountains, (according to others in the Caucasus, where, in fact, its tributaries rise) and flowing westward through the plain of Colchis into the east end of the Euxine or Black Sea.

Doleful, dismal; sorrowful. *Where Amycus ruled &c*, that is, Bithynia, a district of Asia Minor lying to the east of Mysia. *Amycus*, was a son of Poseidon, celebrated for his skill in boxing. When the Argonauts came to his country, his challenge was accepted by Pollux who killed him. *Cared nothing for*, violated; did not obey. *Challenged*, called to contest. *Polydeuces*, or Pollux was celebrated for his skill in boxing. Page. 102. *Felt*, experienced. *Bosphorus*, the strait which unites the Propontis or Marmora with the Euxine or the Black sea. *The city of Phineus*, that is Salmydessus in Thrace. Phineus was the son of Agenor. He was first married to Cleopatra, daughter of Boreas, by whom he had two children. Afterwards he married Idaëa. Idaëa jealous of Cleopatra's children accused them of attempts upon their father's life, or, according to some, of attempts upon her virtue, and they were immediately condemned by Phineus to be deprived of their eyes. This cruelty was soon after punished by the gods. Phineus suddenly became blind, and the Harpies were sent by Zeus to keep him under continual alarm, and to spoil the meats which were placed on his

CHAPTER FIVE

SWITZERLAND TO BURNHAM-ON-SEA

I

IN 1925 Montgomery decided quite bluntly and simply that it was time he got married.

All his life he had avoided women; never had he formed so much as the slightest attachment to a girl. He was even regarded as a woman-hater, and he held strong views about their "emancipation from the home". Quite apart from his puritanism, women were to him an impediment to the simple and monastic progress of one's career.

Now suddenly in his thirty-eighth year he decided that marriage was a necessary and desirable thing, and he devoted himself to the project with the same intense concentration with which he usually approached a military operation. An excursion with several friends was organized to Dinard in Brittany—France presumably was the sort of terrain where this business could best be studied. As usual Montgomery made all the arrangements for the party. He got the tickets, struck a bargain with a hotel on arrival. He then instructed the manager of the hotel to procure him a dancing teacher. While the lessons were in progress (they did not proceed very well), arrangements were made to obtain introductions to the eligible young ladies then holidaying in the neighbourhood. A few mixed tennis parties ensued.

These preliminary manœuvres produced no one quite suitable, but at least they constituted a definite opening to this new campaign, and Montgomery proceeded amiably to Switzerland for the winter sports a short time later, choosing an unpretentious place, the Wildstrubel Hotel at Lenk in the Bernese Oberland.

He was scarcely a romantic figure. There was no nonsense about his ski-ing clothes. He wore gaiters, baggy grey sports trousers, a large and shapeless V-necked sweater that hung far below his waist, and all this was surmounted by a black beret which he had bought somewhere in the village (the first appearance of a beret on his head since childhood). Stuck in it was a local ski club badge (third class).

Rising early in the morning he attacked the mountains fiercely on his skis. He was interested less in the finesse of the

time. *Haunt*, frequent ; visit. *Fearful storms*, terrible tempests. *Sweep away*, snatch off, carry off. *In spite of*, notwithstanding.

Know, recognise. *Which.....backs*, which we have upon our backs. *Hidden...terror*, concealed his face through fear. *In* denotes cause. *Not a word*, nothing.

Have been a traitor, have proved faithless. *Haunt*, torment. *Whom.....prison*, whom you have imprisoned. *Blinded*, made blind ; deprived of sight. *Whom you blinded*, whose eyes you put out. *Bidding*, order ; command. *Evil*, wicked. *Cast them out*, exposed them. *The rocks*, the mountains. *Right*, do justice towards. *Right our sister*, repair the wrong done to our sister. *Cast out*, drive out ; expel. *Plague*, a malignant disease ; hence, any torment or trouble. *Free.....plague*, deliver you from your tormentors. *Drive*, force to go. *The whirlwind maidens* the Harpies. *Put out your eyes*, blind you ; deprive you of sight. *Oath*, a solemn declaration. *Cured their eyes*, restored their sight. *With*, denotes means or instrument. *Magic herbs*, herbs having a magic or supernatural property.

Page. 104.—*Rose up*, got up. *Farewell*, adieu ; good-bye. *A farewell*, is bid at the time of separation. *Old*, past. *With.....times*, who were formerly our playfellows on Pelion. *Fate*, destiny. *Laid upon*, destined ; fixed. *A fate.....us*, we must meet an inevitable destiny. *Day*, appointed time. *Our day is come*, the appointed time has arrived. *Hunt*, chase ; pursue. *Over land and sea*, everywhere. *Catch*, overtake.

At that, on hearing this. *Aloft*, high. *Sprang.....Harpies*, rose high into the air in pursuit of the Harpies. *The battle.....began*, the winds began fighting with one another. *Trembled*, shook. *In silence*, with out speaking the least word. *The shrieking of the blasts*, the loud cries uttered by the Harpies. *Rocked*, moved to and fro. *Were.....crags*, fell from the cliffs. *Hurled earthward*, uprooted. *North.....west*, in all directions. *Boiled*, bubbled. *Boiled.....foam*, was furiously agitated. *Dashed*, thrown violently.

Screaming, crying. *Rushed*, flew. *Brought*, produced. *League*, a measure of 3 miles. *The Cyclades* are a group of islands in the Aegean Sea. *The Ionian Sea*, a part of the Mediterranean lying between Italy and Greece. *They*

his experience: a rather tricky proposition with their loose talk and their strange and untidy interests. When he pulled up his car outside Betty Carver's riverside house he would not go inside, he waited on the pavement until she left her odd friends and came out to him.

It must have been an unusual courtship. Betty Carver's friends describe her at this time as "a charming eccentric with a tremendous vitality and zest for life".

"She had", says one, "very light-grey twinkling eyes, no make-up, a large nose and rather untidy dark hair. She was not very tall, and she wore, as we all did in those days, shapeless washing silk dresses with very low waists and strings of beads round her neck. She was excellent with the children—but then everybody loved her. She was always laughing and always full of mental vitality."

By the spring of 1927 something altogether new was happening in Montgomery's life; he was being impelled by a force which he had not evoked or designed himself, and moreover it was a force over which he had no control. He was falling deeply in love. The event had a double psychological importance. Throughout his life things had never "just happened" to Montgomery. He himself had planned each step in advance, he himself had forced every issue. When outside influences sought to take hold of him he resisted and often violently. That was one side of his mentality. But then again, and coincident with this, he had erected a network of prejudices and dislikes in the course of this long struggle from childhood; and one of the strongest of these prejudices was his aversion to women, or at least the idea of a woman controlling his life.

For nearly forty years, therefore, it had been an unbalanced life, even a somewhat unnatural life. All the energy, the interest and the affection which normally would have flowed into a marriage and the rearing of a family had been blocked and diverted towards the Army. Now suddenly, and almost at one stroke, nature reasserts itself. Betty Carver restores the balance. The prejudice makes a violent swing to the opposite direction; the antipathies of years dissolve delightfully.

No doubt during the courtship Montgomery still had the illusion that he was the master of events, since he did all the pursuing in a most masculine way. But the unexpected, unevoked interior passion was there, willy-nilly carrying him onwards.

On Betty Carver's side the same affection had swept away

P. 107. *Clashed together*, struck against each other. *Struck*, detached; tore. *Rebounded*, jumped back. *A part*, away from each other. *At the shock*, by the force of the shock.

Cheered, encouraged. *Withe*, a slender twig; a willow. *A stroke* is the sweep of an oar in rowing. *Toppling*, tumbling down. *Ice-crags*, pieces of ice. *Those.....death*, the ice-bound rocks that tumbled down and destroyed any one who passed through them; Fig. Metaphor. *The Black Cape*, the promontory of Calpe on the coast of Bithynia. *Thyneis*, a small island of the Euxine, on the coast of Bithynia, near the promontory Calpe. *Thymbris*, a river of Troas which now falls into the Hellespont, but formerly it fell into the Euxine. *Sangarius*, the second largest river of Asia Minor. *Heaped a mound*, built a grave. *Lycia*, a small but very interesting district on the southern side of Asia Minor, jutting out into the Mediterranean.

Sinope, the most important of all the Greek colonies on the shores of the Euxine. *Barbarous tribe*, a tribe which was not Greek. In the Greek phraseology, a man who was not a Greek was a barbarian. "From Gr. *Barbaros*, foreign; *lit.*, stammering; a name given by the Greeks to express the strange sound of foreign languages" (*Skeat*). P. 108. *The Amazons*, a mythical race of warlike females, who are said to have come from the Caucasus. *Clank*, ringing sound. *Anvil*, an iron block upon which metals are hammered and shaped. *Furnace-blasts*, may mean either (1) bellows; or (2) the flames of fire escaping from a furnace. *Forge-fires*, furnaces. *The Chalybes*, an Asiatic people who are generally represented both in the early poetic legends, and in the historical period, as dwelling on the southern shore of the Black Sea. *Smiths*, the blacksmiths. *Never tire*, are perpetually at work. *Forging*, manufacturing.

Day-dawn, sunrise; morning. *Midway*, halfway. *Midway.....sky*, at an equal distance from the earth and the sky. *Snow peaks*, mountain-tops covered with snow. *Above the clouds*, higher than the clouds. *Caucasus*, a great chain of mountains in Asia from the eastern shore of the Euxine to the western shore of the Caspian. Its length is about 700 miles; the greatest breadth about 120 and the least about 60 or 70 miles. Its highest summit, Mt. Elburz, is 16,800 feet above the sea. The ancient Greeks had only a vague knowledge of the Caucasus and supposed it

facts down their throats". There was a sharp quarrel with a full colonel who was senior to Montgomery on the Staff.

Indeed Montgomery's mannerisms were hardly endearing at times. Even his kindly gestures tended to be emphatic. Major-General Sir Charles Gwynn, who was in charge of the Staff College, remembers opening his front door one day and finding Montgomery on the threshold clutching a radio set.

"You have no wireless set", Montgomery announced, coming inside. "Here is one and"—glancing narrowly around the room—"that is the place to put it."

The General protested mildly that he did not want a wireless, and if he did have one he would not put it in that particular spot. Montgomery enthusiastically pointed out how wrong the General was about the whole thing. In the end the set was accepted, placed to Montgomery's liking, and he left.

Among a thousand stories of Montgomery which were current at the end of the war (most of them exaggerated or wholly wrong), there are none which give a more accurate flavour of his acquaintance than this passing incident at Camberley with its ingredients of simple kindness, of slight crankiness and the air of convinced rightness with which he went about.

One gathers that many people were slightly frightened of him: one could laugh light-heartedly with Mrs. Montgomery, but when her husband came into the room there was a pause, a slight air of restraint. Once when the Montgomerys were guests at a house party in Italy a fancy-dress dinner party was arranged. Montgomery (as it was expected) refused to put on a costume, but his wife appeared wearing his evening clothes, a moustache painted on her upper lip. With one accord the guests glanced apprehensively at Montgomery to see how he would take it. Betty Montgomery alone appeared to be at ease. Lifting a glass she cried, "The ladies—God bless 'em", and the party relaxed.

3

The marriage had astonished Montgomery's friends. Few believed that that dry unrelenting figure was set upon any other course than permanent bachelorhood. If they had chosen a bride for him it would have been some strong country girl wearing sensible rough tweeds, a good horsewoman, and a leader in the local charities.

But this dark vivacious woman with her infectious giggle, her paint-box and her books was something entirely unex-

Filled.....*fear*, made him afraid. *Lap*, bosom. *Chariot*, a war-car or vehicle, drawn by any number of horses from two to seven. *Appease*, conciliate; win the favor of. *Spirits* departed souls. *Rich and mighty*, wealthy and powerful.

Reedy river, the river in which reeds grew abundantly. P. 110. *Sliding up*, proceeding noiselessly; coming silently up. *Like Immortals for beauty and for strength*, resembling the gods in beauty and strength. *Level*, smooth; plain; neither too strong not too weak. *Mist of the stream*, fog that hung over the river.

Into each other's eyes; towards each other. *Awed*, struck with fear and reverence; influenced by reverential fear. *Tissue*, texture. *Of rich gold tissue*, of costly cloth interwoven with gold, silver, or with figured colours. *Diadem*, crown. *Rays*, lines of light, formed by the sun shining upon the crown. *The rays...fire*, the light reflected from his crown was as bright as if it were fire. *A jewelled sceptre*, a sceptre inlaid with jewels. *Sceptre*, is the staff or rod carried by kings as a token of their authority. *Sternly* severely. *Under his brows*, from beneath his brows.

What.....here what is your business in this country. *Cutaria*, a town in Colchis on the river Phasis, where Medea was said to have been born. *Do.....rule*, do you consider my government to be weak. *Who never.....battle*, who have always been ready to fight. *To face*, to encounter.

Before the face, in the presence. *Put.....heart*, made Jason bold. *Pirates*, sea-robbers. *Lawless men*, outlaws; brigands. *Ravage*, pillage; despoil. Page 111. *My uncle.....he*, complement of "is." *Set*, appointed. *Quest*, search. *Comrades*, companions. *No nameless men*, famous men. *Know.....take*, are well versed in attack and defence.

Aietes.....whirlwind, Aietes became very angry. *His eyes flashed fire*, sparks of fire appeared to dart from his eyes. *Crushed down*, subdued. *Cunning*, artful. *Speech*, Cognate object of "Spoke" *Worsted*, defeated. *Will be ruled by me*, will take my advice. *You.....far*, it will be much better for you. *Choose*, select. *Fulfil*, perform. *Demand*, order. *For a prize*, as a reward.

There was.....chance of war, it was quite out of ques-

two step-sons suited him admirably; he adored this kind of patriarchal responsibility and the two boys responded willingly. The birth of his own son gratified a more than usual hunger for immortality. In every direction his life seemed to have been suddenly transformed. Even his career marched more swiftly ahead, and for the first time since the end of the war he began to glimpse the reality of the vision that never for an instant left him—authority and high command.

He was already a senior major. He was becoming a known man in the Army. More and more people were beginning to listen to him; or rather, as he himself put it, "resistance to my ideas was beginning to die down". Soon, perhaps, someone would die, someone retire, and he would get command of a battalion.

His marriage had broadened him, made him more tractable and more acceptable for promotion. Certainly he had still a long way to go before the men in higher command would docilely accept his acid criticisms. But he was learning patience and gathering followers around him.

Refreshed and exhilarated by three years of terrific work at Camberley he went back to his regiment, then stationed at Woking, and got the important job of acting as secretary of the committee which was to undertake one of the periodic re-writings of the Army's Infantry Training Manual. This was a big jump forward. At heart Montgomery was an infantryman and the focus of his interest in war lay in infantry tactics.

At Camberley he had become a notable lecturer on the subject. Once instead of taking his annual leave he accepted an invitation to go off to manœuvres at Sheerness as an adviser on the infantry side. He had nothing to gain from this except gratification of his own enthusiasm. During the manœuvres he propounded his ideas with such lucidity and vehemence that they were printed and distributed among senior commanders; and subsequently his notes became standard practice for the use and deployment of infantry.

It was a distinguished but not passionately active group of officers who sat on the War Office committee for the re-writing of the manual. Their secretary had not much difficulty in taking over most of the business himself. It was the old Montgomery tactics which he had employed steadily since his schooldays: get into the team and then run it. The manual, which was still current when the war against Hitler broke in 1939, was largely the output of Montgomery's own brain.

When there were postponements in the printing of the book Montgomery protested to the War Office: "Why the delay in

wise maiden &c. here Jason artfully requests Medeia to help the heroes.

Cunningly, sily. *Held.....eye*, kept his bright eye fixed upon her. *She blushed*, her face became red on account of modesty. Page 115. *Flattering*, coaxing. *Your, fame.....earth*, you are famous throughout the world. *Enchantresses*, female magicians. *Circe*, a mythical sorceress daughter of Helios by the Oceanid Perse, and sister of Aietes, who lived in the island of Aea. *Fairy island*, magic island.

Would that, I wish that. *I were*, "were" in the subjunctive mood is used with all numbers and persons alike. *Sore temptation*, severe trial. *Tear*, rend; harrow. *Thoughts.....heart*, heart rending ideas. *If.....so*, if I must help you. *Ointment*, a soft unctuous substance used for smearing. *Sprung*, issued. *Dreary fields of snow*, desolate ice-fields. *Anoint*, smear. *Harm*, injure. *Virtue*, efficacy. *Lasts*, holds out. *Cast*, throw. *Among their ranks*, in their midst. *A rank*, is a line of soldiers. *Crop*, harvest. *Mow*, reap. *The deadly.....itself*, the warriors that would spring up from the field would kill, each other. The whole is a sustained Metaphor.

Fell on his knees, knelt down. *Vase*, vessel. *Rejoiced*, were glad. Page 116. *Bathed*, washed himself. *From head to foot*, from top to toe; throughout the whole length of his body. *Try*, put to the test. *Spell*, charm. *Try the spell*, test the efficacy of the charm. *Like.....bar*, straight as a rod of iron. *Inspite*, angrily. *Hewed at*, struck at. *Blade*, the cutting part of the sword. *Splinters*, small pieces. *Flew.....face*, broke into small pieces, which struck his face. *Lance*, spear. *Turned*, were blunted. *Stirred*, moved. *Enormous*, immense. *To claim*, to demand. *To claim Aietes' promise*, to ask Aietes to fulfil his word.

Sent up, despatched. *Telamon*, a brother of Peleus and father of Ajax the greater. He was one of the Argonauts, and a great friend of Heracles. *Aithalides*, a son of Hermes and the herald of Argonauts. He had received from his father the faculty of remembering everything. *Rage*, anger. *Fulfil your promise*, keep your word. *Blazing*, shining. *The serpent's teeth*, it was said that these were the teeth of the dragon that had not been sown by Cadmus at Thebes. *Let loose*, set free. *Fiery bulls*, the

warriors were crowded. *Blind.....fear*, they became mad and began to suspect, hate and fear one another. *Phantoms*, apparitions. *Fury.....phantoms*, the giants that had sprung from the earth became frantic. *Each rest*, they began to attack one another. *Were never..... ground*, did not stop fighting till they killed one another. *Then the magic.....breast*, the ditches again opened and they were swallowed by the earth. *All*, adverb qualifying "Green."

From his crag, from the rock upon the Caucasus where he lay chained. *Lead.....fleece*, show me the way to the place where the fleece is kept. *Goes down*, sets. *The deadly crop*, the giants who sprang up from the earth. *Proof against*, successful in resisting. *Who is proof against all magic*, whom no magic can hurt. *Taking counsel*, consulting. *Every man to his home*, let every man go home. *Speak*, discuss.

Doing, work. *False*, treacherous. P. 120. *Brought shame upon*, put to shame. *If.....die*, I will put you to death if the Minnai obtain the fleece.

Marched, went. *Growling*, roaring. *Cheated of*, treacherously deprived of. *Meant*, intended. *Mock*, make fun of. *Cheat.....toil*, deprive them of that for which they had toiled. *Devouring one*, eating up one man. *The rest*, the others. *Held them back*, checked them. *While*, time; noun, adverbial, object of time.

My end is come, my death is near. *Found out*, discovered. *You he would kill*, 'you' is the object of "kill;" but is placed before its verb for the sake of emphasis. *He will not harm you &c.*, It was one of the rules of hospitality that a host should protect his guest. *Remember*, do not forget. *Fall here*, die here. *Fighting to the last man*, fighting till all of us are killed. *To* denotes limit.

P. 121. *You need not die*, it is not necessary for you to die. *Die*, is in the Infinitive Mood. *Flee*, run away. *Flee.....sea*, accompany us to our home beyond the sea. *How.....fleece*, the way by which we may obtain the fleece. *Can* denotes ability or power. *Else*, otherwise. *Why.....grove*, as you are the priestess of the grove, it is in your power to help us to win the fleece.

Pressed round, advanced close to her. *Vowed*, swore. *She should be their queen*, they would make her their

Church. He had risen to the rank of Prelate of the Order of St. Michael and St. George. He had embellished and decorated a fine chapel in St. Paul's. Each year it had been his custom to don his robes (amiably described by the Bishop as "my war-paint") and in a voice growing increasingly frail, read over the entire list of the illustrious names of the members of the Order. In the end he had himself been invested with the K.C.M.G. and now he was about to preach for the last time before his friends, the Duke and Duchess of York.

From Ireland, where he still strode about the country with his stick, the old man wrote letters and watched keenly the progress of his third son Bernard. He made him the trustee of his will. He sent him much advice. Almost alone of everyone in the world the Bishop was determined to believe that some great future was awaiting this boy who had begun life so restlessly and relentlessly in London.

And to Bernard, as he opened his father's letters in Palestine, the years rolled away and the old thunder came back: "Place your faith in God . . . you come of a family of gentlemen . . . remember that you must always be responsible for your actions . . . undiluted hell fire has done me a great deal of good . . . whatever you choose to do place God first in your life." To which Bernard added another phrase he was increasingly fond of using—"The Lord mighty in Battle".

There had been so much between them and so little expressed; in a strange way it seemed that their deep relationship had never been enough fulfilled, that each had a great deal more to give the other. But time and distance and the war and ambition had intervened. And now with that helpless terror and sudden tugging at the heart which one always feels at parting with someone who is dearly loved, Bernard began to realize that it was already too late.

There remained behind them the long stretch of photographic memories; his father striding down the street in Hobart, the white beard, the upright figure, the air of radiating benevolence, and again the same scene in Irish villages where the peasants used to rise and touch their caps to him . . . the readings in the study on Sunday afternoons . . . the robes and the sermons and the music. Everything seemed to have gone by so quickly. His father had been so much the apostle of gentleness and peace and only now, at the very end, it was becoming apparent to Bernard that he might have made the complement to that idea of life by protecting it, by making the Lord mighty in Battle, himself the chosen soldier of the Church militant.

Of late he had been growing very like his father. Quiet

Warily, cautiously. *Tore*, detached. *The four*, viz., Jason, Orpheus, Medeia and Absyrtus. *The Argo lay*, the Argo was moored or lay at anchor. *On high*, aloft. *Swift and steady*, rapidly and regularly. *If.....more*, if you like to see Mt. Pelion again. *Drove*, urged; impelled. *Grim*, stern; sullen. *Grim.....all*, all being grim and silent; i.e., sternly and silently. *Muffled oars*, oars wrapped in cloth. *Willow*, a kind of tree. *Groaned*, gave forth a low moaning sound. *The pine wood*, by Fig. Synecdoche, oars. *Till.....strokes*, so strong was the force with which they pulled at them, that the oars bent like slender twigs and a low, moaning sound issued from the *Argo* as it went onward.

The dewy darkness, the gloom caused by the fog. *Swirling*, whirling. *Castles*, fortified dwellings. *Sluicemouths*, artificial passages for water. *Strange*, wonderful. *Marshes*, bogs. *Kine*, old Plural form of *Cow*. *Beds*, plots of ground. *Whistling reeds*, reeds through which the wind rustled. *Surge*, wave. *Bar*, a bank of sand, gravel, or other matter, forming a shoal at the mouth of a river. *The merry...alone*, the pleasant sound caused by the waves striking upon the bar. *Tumbled*, rolled on.

Breakers, waves that strike forcibly upon the rocks. *The Argo.....horse*, the *Argo* went forward on the breakers as swiftly as a horse runs upon the land. *Mettle*, spirit. *Honour*, fame; renown. *She knew.....herself*, she was aware that everything depended upon her swift flight, and that it was time for her to display all her spirit and thus make the heroes as well as herself, famous for all time to come.

P. 126. *Stopped*, ceased rowing. *Panting*, breathing heavily. *Slid*, glided; moved noiselessly. *The heroes...broad sea*, the heroes were quite exhausted and could row no more; so they rested on their oars and the *Argo* glided silently upon the unruffled surface of the broad sea.

Pæan, (Gr. *Paian*, a religious hymn, originally in honor of Apollo as a healing deity) a song of rejoicing and triumph. *The heroes' hearts rose high*, the heroes were cheered up. *Stoutly*, vigorously. *The darkness of the west*, the dark or unknown sea of the west.

they were full of complaints. They said he was high-handed, ridiculously punctilious and autocratic. The men were uneasy. They were far from smart on parade. Under the eye of that weird heterogeneous population of Alexandria their discipline was lax. There were too many men locked in the guard-house and there was too much slovenliness round the barracks. Morale was bad.

Nor, after the first terse exchange of reports, did things greatly improve. Montgomery was on the telephone to Brigadier Pile at Ismailia: "Can you come down? A difficulty has arisen." The Brigadier began to dread those telephone calls. He would fly to Alexandria and demand of Montgomery, "Well, what is it this time?"

Usually it was some hopelessly involved affair beginning with a zealous but wholly unorthodox order of Montgomery's and ending in a mess that was far beyond the range of the Army text-books. Montgomery was running his battalion as though he were the head of a family back at Bishop's Court. Young officers who were apt to give up their leisure hours to the more earthly and exotic pleasures of Alexandria were suddenly finding themselves on the mat in front of the Colonel, their private lives most rudely exposed and the most unusual punishments forced upon them. This, they contended, was a little too much. A soldier's private life was his own affair. Montgomery usually took the opposite line. A soldier, he argued, was a soldier the whole time. If a soldier's private habits made him unfit for duty then he must be corrected.

Montgomery was also seriously concerned with the incidence of venereal disease among his soldiers. How, he asked himself, can we ever be fit for war if we take casualties behind the line before we start? It was a problem that he was going to meet in a much bigger way later on.

His approach to it was strictly practical and realistic. First, as a long-range strategic remedy, you must build up a sense of morals against the evil. Secondly, as a short-range tactical object, you must act on the best practical expedients available.

The Alexandria of the early nineteen-thirties was not much different from what it is now: a maze of sweltering streets teeming with every nationality in the Levant. Most of the coloured population was gripped by a garish and amoral poverty and immersed in the sordid struggle to escape from it by any method they could. Backsheesh. Piastres. These were the governing inspirations of life. In commerce there were no holds barred. Sell—sell anything so long as you sell—bath-

Bea rher sin, he punished for her guilt. *Atone*, expiate. *Till*.....full, till she has committed all the crimes she is destined to do. *Vengeance*, revenge. *Waits for*, waits. *Vengeance*.....sure, she will be punished slowly but surely. *Show you the way*, lead you. *A weary way*, a tiresome journey. *To her*.....your guilt, though it will be a tiresome journey, you must go to her and she will purify you from your crime.

Sentence, judgment. *Of the oak*, pronounced by the hough. *Dark*, unknown or dangerous. *Bitter*, painful. *Years*.....toil, they had to undergo hard labour for a long time. *Years*, is subject to "lay." *Upbraided*, reproached. *We are her debtors still*, we still owe her a debt of gratitude. *Bit*.....silence, silently suppressed their anger. "Biting the lips" indicates vexation, or a struggle to suppress one's feelings. *Feared*.....spells, were afraid of the witch's charms.

Calmer, less stormy. *Thrust*, drove. *Sand-bank*, a ridge of sand near the surface of the water. *Course*, way. *Guiding*, direction. *Wastes*, wilderness; desert regions.

Page 130. *Whither*.....tell, it is impossible to say in what direction they went. *The Ister*, the old name of the Danube. *The Adriatic*, or the Gulf of Venice, a part of the Mediterranean. *The Alps*, a range of mountains, the highest in Europe, running in an unbroken line from the Mediterranean round the north west of Italy to the Eastern side of the Adriatic. They divide Italy from France, Switzerland and Austria. *The Red Indian Sea*, i.e., the Red Sea, which lies between Arabia and Africa. *The sunny lands*.....grow, may perhaps be the Hedjaz, Yemen, Palestine, Syria &c. *Aethiopia*, now called Abyssinia, an African country to the south of Egypt. *Libya*; see notes on page 36. *The burning sands*, the hot desert. *Sands*, (in the Plural) means a desert. *Over the hills*, crossing the hills. *Syrtes*, the two great gulfs in the Eastern half of the north coast of Africa. *Syrtis major*, or the greater Syrtis is the modern Gulf of Sidra, a wide and deep arm of the sea on the shores of Tripoli, exactly opposite to the Ionian Sea. *Syrtis minor*, or the Lesser is the modern Gulf of Gabes, between the coasts of Tunis and Tripoli. Both are proverbially dangerous, the greater Syrtis from its sandbanks and quicksands and the Lesser from its rocky shores, and its exposure to the north east winds.

Montgomery's authority? In the end a little quiet and reasonable talking settled the matter; the men were released, the order not enforced—and they bought the magazine.

For the regiment the incident was a little triumph in democracy. For Montgomery it was the sort of experience upon which the whole of his future career really depended. Outside of his own subject, the Army, he was no autocrat. Upon most of the issues of life he was as modest and willing to hear another man's point of view as anyone else. Although he did not drink or smoke he never forced others to conform with himself. They could stay up late, ignore the Bible, get drunk; in fact do anything they liked provided only this—they turned up fit for duty when they were needed. As soon as the Army was affected a rigid iron curtain came down in his mind. Here there must be no untidiness, no shilly-shallying with amateur ideas, no nonsense about the Army marching as slow as its slowest man and conforming to its weakest mind. Democracy in the Army—the stabilizing of things at the average level—this was out. There was a right and a wrong way to do things. Only the right way would do. Running an army and fighting a battle were matters as clearly defined and as technical as mending a bathroom tap. Montgomery felt like the plumber who arrives to find the amateur householder doing the wrong thing and making matters much worse.

It was because there were very few people in the world—still less in the Army—who were as sure of their skill as this that Montgomery ran into ninety per cent. of his quarrels. Very few people, especially at this time, were willing to believe that he was always right. He *said* he was always right. He behaved as if he thought he was always right. But was this not just an incredible conceit? And, anyway, could not the fellow occasionally behave with a little restraint instead of indulging in these outbursts of impatience and bluntness and ridiculous petulance?

For both sides the issue was extremely irritating. It was agony for Montgomery to admit that he was ever wrong—and he was wrong occasionally just as his mother before him had been sometimes wrong. Clearly whatever he had done in life he would have run into these brawls and misunderstandings. But in the Army it was especially so. The Army was still a repository of tradition. As at the turn of the century it still tended to attract the less brilliant minds of the nation. Many a mild drunk and incompetent had remained holding a commission after the war against the Kaiser. There had been no clean sweep through the regiments or the higher command.

of Europe, beyond the region of the north wind, and therefore not exposed to its cold blasts, *Pole-star*, a star near the pole of heavens. The present northern pole-star is the star Alpha, of the second magnitude, in the constellation of Ursa Majoris. *Cronian Sea*, appears to have been the Baltic or the White sea. *Would.....longer*, could not move forward. *Elbow*, the joint connecting the arm and the fore-arm. *Leaned*, supported. *Heart-broken*, depressed; dejected. *Gave.....death*, lost all hope of life. *Cheered.....more*, encouraged them once more. *Haul*, pull up with force; drag. *Mixed*, confused. *Broken*, disconnected. *Cimmerians*, a mythical people mentioned by Homer, who dwelt in the furthest west on the ocean. *Deep*, used for deeply. *The snow mountains*, mountains covered with snow. *Hermione*, the country inhabited by the Hermiones, an ancient German tribe, who were distinguished for their righteousness. P. 132. *Endure*, bear up. *The word.....past*, the most dangerous part of the journey is over. *Ruffle*, disturb; agitate. *I can.....water*, I see waves produced by the west wind. *Set the sail*, unfurl the sail. *Raise up.....sail*, sail on vigorously. *Face.....men*, meet manfully what takes place.

Had perished, had been destroyed. *Whelmed*, crushed. *The dread blue rocks*, the Symplegades, which were two moving rocks in the Black Sea. As soon as a ship had entered the narrow opening between them, the rocks toppled over and crushed her. *Fierce swell*, the deadly waves. *A swell*, is "a wave or billow, especially a succession of large waves." *Better so*, it would have been better for me if I had perished. *Wander*, roam. *Disgraced*, dishonored. *Guilt*, crime. *Of my princes*, "of" denotes agency. *Tracks me*, follows me; dogs my steps. *Woe.....woe*, I have to bear one misery after another. *Clutch*, seize; gripe. *Isle of Ierne*, *Ierne* or *Hibernia* was the name given by the ancient Greeks and Romans to Ireland; but sometimes the name was also applied to the whole of Britain. In the earliest times, the Greeks and the Romans had only a very imperfect knowledge of Britain. The Phœnicians who wanted to monopolize all commerce jealously kept secret any knowledge they obtained of the country, and spread evil reports, about it. *Cling to the land*, sail close to the land. *I shall wander &c*, the ancient Greeks believed that the earth was a flat circle, which was encom-

held near at hand in the vicinity of the Great Pyramid and Mena House.

Montgomery was not a notable lover of nature. Scenery to him became interesting when it was properly mapped and marked out with possible defensive and offensive areas. There is no record of his responding in any marked way to the limitless spaces and the moving colours of the desert when he first led his men out of Alexandria. Yet something there evoked his special interest, and now, as later, from the moment he set foot on the open sand he stepped forward with absolute assurance.

Probably the desert appealed to him as being the perfect arena for war. Here as nowhere else you could join in a straight-out test of skill. There were no civilians to become mixed up in the fighting, no extraneous political matters to cloud the issue. War in the desert was as technical, as clear-cut and decisive as you could hope to get it.

Once in the desert there was no slackness any longer in the battalion. Both Burnett-Stuart and Pile began to realize that they had here a field commander of exceptional briskness and ingenuity. More than this he had a way of enthusing his men once they were in action which gave him remarkable results.

As for Montgomery himself, he was learning fast. There was one notable exercise against a rival force which was defending the Pyramids. Up to this point Montgomery had been a little chary of night actions; they were untidy, the formations were apt to get out of touch. But now it was essential if he was going to eliminate the enemy that they should be surprised. De Guingand, his old student from York, had now joined him, and the two men planned this, their first mock battle in the desert, together. Aircraft were sent out to discover where the enemy headquarters was lying. The first trip was blank. The time limit for the exercise was running out, but they decided to try again. This time the airmen came back with the news that they had discovered the enemy in a wadi. At once Montgomery gave the order to advance. His men rushed upon the rival encampment in the darkness, and under the light of flares dropped from the air they mopped up the whole position.

It is hardly likely that either Montgomery or de Guingand could have felt the touch of history at that moment. Yet before ten years were out the things they learned on this night were going to engulf a million men in one of the decisive struggles of the world; and all this was to happen in much the same way and not fifty miles from that same valley of the desert.

which was torn into two parts by Heracles. The two mountains and afterwards the strait between them, came to be called the columns or Pillars of Hercules. *Deep's sea*, *Sardinia*, one of the large islands of the Mediterranean. *Ansonian islands*, a group of islands in the Mediterranean off Ansonia, a province of Italy. *Tyrrhenian shore*, *Tyrrhenia* (called *Etruria* by the Romans) a country in Central Italy. *A flowery island*, an island covered with flower-plants. *Still.....eve*, a calm, bright evening in summer. *Neared it*, approached it. *Near* is here a verb. *Started*, was alarmed. *The Sirens*, sea-nymphs who had the power of charming by their songs all who heard them. They are called daughters of Calliope or of Gaea). *Channel*, a passage of water. *Lost*, destroyed.

Match against, rival. *Charmed*, fascinated. *How... men*, will it not be easier to charm human beings? P. 135. *Poop*, a deck raised at one the after part of the spar deck.

Anthemousa, the name given to the island of the Sirens. *Three fair maidens*, there is no mention of the number of the Sirens in Homer; but some of the later writers say they were two Aglaopheme and Thelxipeia; while the others say that there were three of them, Pisinæ, Aglaope and Thilxipeia. *Beds*, plots of ground. *Poppies*, a kind of plant from one of which opium is collected. *Asphodel*, perennial plant cultivated for the beauty of its flowers. It is of a yellow color hence "golden." *Sleeping*, dozing. *Silver voices*, soft and clear voices. *Stole over*, flew softly over. *Stole into the hearts of*, imperceptibly affected the hearts of.

Stayed, stopped in their course. *Gulls*, a kind of web footed sea fowl. *Lines*, rows. *White*, because of being composed of the gulls who are white in color. *Seal*, an aquatic carnivorous mammal. *Basking*, warming themselves in the sun. *Kept time with lazy heads*, nodded their heads lazily in response to the Siren's song. *Shoals*, large numbers. *Silver shoals of fish*, crowds of bright shining fish. *Hearken*, hear. *Broke.....calm*, agitated the calm bright surface of the sea. *Hushed his whistling*, seized to blow. *Shepherded*, guided; carried. *In mid blue*, in the centre of the sky. *The wind over head &c. &c.*, Fig. Metaphor; the wind being compared to a shepherd and the clouds to sheep.

Fell, dropped. *Drooped*, fell. *Closed their heavy eyes*,

end of the line. Sometimes, too, guests playing bridge would suddenly find themselves hustled out of the house because some important business was on hand. But Montgomery and his wife understood one another: the Army was sacred. All the rest of his life was hers.

Montgomery was always at his best when he had responsibility, and in many ways it softened him. It was at these times that that streak of patriarchal kindness came out most strongly. Because he loved a younger brother, he was now paying for the boy's education, and this was not an easy thing to do out of a lieutenant-colonel's pay.

In Alexandria, too, many of his dealings were happier. There was the matter of the ceremonial church parade, always an irksome thing with the soldier not overly devout and certainly not anxious to give up valuable leisure time in going to church. Montgomery ordered the ceremonial parade to be cancelled. Irritable men, he argued, were in no condition to meet their God. In future they could go in mufti as civilians. He himself would read the lesson. The service was at once a success, but the inevitable reprimand came down from headquarters in Cairo. Who had given Colonel Montgomery the arbitrary power to do away with the ceremonial parade? Montgomery fought it. And this time he won.

By the time he came to take his battalion off to Poona, in India, he was developing fast as a popular commander "once you got to know him". His troops were a little lacking in spit and polish and they made no great show on the parade ground. But they knew their weapons and they were resourceful on manoeuvres. They could fight.

On the whole it was rather bad luck they were going to Poona. In Poona the authorities reckoned on drill. Field experience was well enough, but unless a soldier had his buttons polished and was able to present arms with a certain amount of dispatch he was not much good to the Army. The garrison commander at Poona took one look at Montgomery's men and decided they simply would not do. Clearly the whole battalion would have to be reformed and re-trained. They were lax in their drill. Where was the ceremonial discipline? How could you send men on parade like that?

Montgomery, on his side, took one look at the garrison commander and applied for three months' leave. Poona very definitely was no place for him and he had better get out of it quickly before even worse rows ensued. In all Montgomery's long story this is probably the one prudent personal retreat he ever carried out.

Zens. Groaning, moaning. *Turns*, revolves upon. *Quakes*, shakes. *The.....earthquakes*, earthquakes take place. *Cone*, conical peak. A *cone*, is a solid body, generated by the revolution of a triangle about one of its sides. *Aetna*, a volcanic mountain in Sicily. *Charybdis*, and *Scylla*, the names of 2 rocks between Italy and Sicily, and only a short distance from each other. In one of the rocks there was a cave, in which dwelt Scylla, a daughter of Crataies, a fearful monster, barking like a dog, with 2 feet, and 6 long necks and heads, each of which contained three rows of sharp teeth. The opposite rock which was much lower contained a fig tree under which sat Charybdis, who thrice every day swallowed the waters of the sea and thrice threw them up again. *Fearful coils of wave*, dreadful waves. *Most high*, as high as the mast. *Spun*, whirled. *Whirlpool*, an eddy of water ; a Gulf in which the water moves in a circle. *Sucked them in*, swallowed them. *The whirlpool...in*, they sank deeper in the eddy.

P. 139. *Struggled*, strove; labored. *The strait*, the strait of Messina which separates Sicily from Naples. *Stand*, are situated. *Peak*, highest point. *Wrapt round in*, covered with. *Climb*, scale. *Smooth*, polished. *Slippery*, not allowing a firm footing. *Polished*, made smooth. *Halfway up*, in the middle of the rock. *A misty..... west*, a misty cave was situated, with its mouth towards the west.

Little.....whirlpool, we shall not be in a better position if we free ourselves from the eddy ; Fig. Metaphor, the whirlpool being compared to a carnivorous animal. *Hag*, an ugly old woman ; a she-monster. *Whelp*, young of a dog ; a puppy. *Warned me of her*, advised me to be ware of her. *Hides*, remains concealed. *Cleft*, cave. *Fishes for*, catches. *The herds of Amphitrite*, sea animals. *Amphitrite*, is the Queen of the Sea. *We must... befalls*, we are doomed to perish under all circumstances.

The depths, the sea. *For love*, "for" denotes cause. *Gallant*, brave. *Diving on*, plunging in and out of the sea. P. 140. *Before.....beside her*, on all sides. *Passed.....hand*, gave it from one to another. *Stooped*, bent forward. *Whined*, gave forth a low barking sound. *Shrank into*, went back into. *Affrighted*, frightened. *Shrink*, recoil. *Coral caves*, caves built by the coral in-

leisure in life and he can enter into his fifties watching his family and his career advancing steadily and evenly upwards. At last the unquiet spirit seems to have found a place to rest.

Back from his cherry blossom tour of Japan, Montgomery took his next bound upward with extraordinary ease: full colonel, General Staff Officer of the First Grade, senior instructor at the Military Staff College at Quetta. It has taken him sixteen years, but now he has regained not only the rank but the same authority that he had at the ending of the war. This time his rank is permanent and solidly founded on experience and a widening reputation.

Family, servants, luggage and furniture moved up to Quetta together and his three great years of teaching begins. This time there are no impediments. He has formed his philosophy of war. He has dotted all the "i's" and crossed the "t's" of his theory of training.

With the blackboard behind him, the rows of student-officers sitting in front, he explains tirelessly over and over again; should there be another war you have only to follow these rules and the whole thing will be perfectly simple.

1. Morale. Study the individual soldier. Create the atmosphere of success. Morale means everything.

2. Simplify the problem. Sort out the essentials which must form the basis of all future action; and once you have decided upon them ensure that those essentials stand firm and are not swept away in a mass of detail. As a commander, lay down the general framework of what you want done—and then within that framework allow great latitude to your subordinates. Explain the plan to them carefully and fully and then stand back yourself and avoid being encumbered with unessentials.

3. You must learn how to pick a good team of subordinates, and once you have got them stick to them and trust them. All men are different and all generals are different; so are brigades and divisions. But if you study human nature you will be able to fit them into the right places.

4. Make yourself know what you want and have the courage and determination to get it. You must have the will to win: it is much more important to fight well when things are going badly than when things are going well. Remember that battles seldom go completely as they are planned. Great patience is required and you have to keep on until the other fellow cracks. If you worry you merely go mad.

There is an *ex-cathedra*, an almost Biblical quality about these and all the many other pronouncements. Be wise. Be

Square, an area of four sides with houses on each side. P. 144. *Cables*, long ropes. *Yard*, a long piece of timber suspended upon a mast. *Ship rights*, persons whose occupation is shipbuilding. *Twining*, twisting. *Hewing*, cleaving. *Plated brass*, sheets of brass covered with engravings. *Never.....died*, remained immutable. *Lannos*, the largest island in the *Ægean Sea*. It was sacred to Hephaestos who is said to have fallen here after being hurled from Olympus by Zeus. Hence the workshop of the god is sometimes placed in this island. *Guard*, keep watch at. *By night*, during the night. *Crafty*, is used here in its original sense of "skilful." *Pride*, glory. *Molten*, melted down and cast in the mould. *Grinding*, reducing to powder. *Turning the spindle*, spinning cotton. *Spindle*, is the apparatus for spinning cotton into thread. *Loom*, a frame or machine in which the weaver forms cloth out of thread. *Weaving at the loom*, forming the thread into cloth. P. 145. *Twinkled*, flashed at intervals. *Shuttles*, an instrument used by weavers for passing the thread of the woof from one side of the cloth to the other. *Quivering*, shaking. *Aspen*, a kind of plant.

Walled round, surrounded by walls. *Bore*, produced fruit. *Fed*, nourished. *Farther end*, the remoter corner. *To water*, to supply with water.

Sculptured, ornamented with carved work. *Pledged*, drank the health of. *Leaned*, supported herself. *Welcomed*, greeted. P. 146. *Entreat*, beseech. *By Zeus*, 'by' denotes adjuration. *Let me go my way*, allow me to proceed. *Bear my burden*, endure my sorrows. *Have I.....shame*, have I not suffered sufficient punishment and shame already?

What is.....prayer, what does your request mean. *To find*, to seek. *Take*, carry. *Frowned*, showed signs of anger. *Décide*, judge her case.

Whose fame...shore, who have become famous throughout the world. *After.....before*, after suffering hardships which man never experienced before. *We went.....few*, when we started from home, we were a large company, but now our ranks are thinned. P. 147. *The world*, all men; Fig. Synecdoche, (the container for the contained). *May say*, 'may' denotes wish.

Stood.....thought, meditated deeply. *Had.....done*, if what has occurred would not have taken place. *It...Alcin-*

and there was a growing coterie of young men whom he deliberately sought out and befriended and pushed ahead in their careers. It was at this time that he warmly supported de Guingand's appointment to the Staff College at Camberley.

For the most part it was a sedentary life and, since teaching was a form of command, he talking, the others listening, he was happy. Even when disaster almost blotted out that whole community it passed him and his family by.

The Quetta earthquake came in May 1935 almost without warning. It was a sultry night. The horses in their stalls were nervous and restless. Montgomery and the British garrison were quartered outside the town and they heard in the distance a confused and unearthly roaring. After a while the noises stopped and again the night was ominously and unnaturally still. At 2 a.m. the earthquake suddenly struck with prodigious and terrifying force. The worst of it passed by the British encampment, but even here the ground was heaving and shuddering and people ran about in bewilderment in this monstrous insecurity, shouting reassurances and questions at one another. The real blow fell on the mud-hut native town of Quetta itself. As the city collapsed in smoke and dust awful cries and rumblings came out of the debris. Fires began and in the suddenness and completeness of the shock there was utter chaos among the Indian population. Streets disappeared into rubbish. Thousands of people were buried alive under the tumbling walls. Sewers burst, and when the morning came there was added to the appalling wreckage a violent stench and a thick acrid cloud of fumes that made men vomit.

The British soldiers mustered every ambulance and vehicle and climbed into the horrible rubble with their gas-masks on. But even so they could get no farther than the perimeter of the town. Amid so much smoke and dust the centre was in a complete confusion of dead and dying people pinned under the fallen roofs. For days and nights the survivors did what they could, but still they could make no headway among the wreckage and by now all human cries there were silenced. There was danger of disease. In the end the British cordoned off the whole city with barbed wire and left it, a vast mouldering grave, to be cleaned out by the scorching sun, the vultures and the jackals. Some thirty thousand people had died.

Had ended, had finished his songs. *They.....out*, all of them went out thinking upon what they had heard. *Sounding*, resounding ; echoing. *Porch*, portico ; portal. P. 151. *Had strewn them*, had placed for their use. *Rugs*, woollen fabrics used for the covering of a bed.

Pleaded, interceded. *Hard*, very much. *For Medeia*, in favor of ; on behalf of. *Suppliant*, humble petitioner. *Dare part man and wife*, venture to separate husband from wife. *After all*, after all which. *Endured*, suffered.

Must remember what is right, must keep justice in view. *Alter*, change. *Must.....name*, I should not belie my reputation. *Sturdy sense*, strong common sense. *Alcinous.....be*, I will be what I am known to be. *For all that*, in spite of all that. *Won him round*, induced him to comply with her wishes.

Puzzling, bewildering. *But, only. Meet*, come across. *Which.....offend*, whom can we offend with greater impunity. P. 152. *Stayed*, remined *Errand*, mission. *What.....lady*, what are the instructions given to you about this lady ?

Return without her, cannot carry her with us. *What.....this*, what is your reply to this. *Bootless* ; fruitless. *They are.....errand*. they have come for a useless purpose. *Follow*, accompany. *Call down on you*, invoke on you the vengeance of. *Plans and wiles*, schemes and stratagems. *Why.....all*, why should you return home at all. *Face*, encounter. *Double all your toil*, go over all your dangers again. *Fair*, fertile. *There is.....like you*, there are many fertile countries round about here that require brave men like you. *Settle*, establish yourselves. *Let Aietes.....themselves*, let Aietes and Colchis alone.

Page.153. *Roving*, wandering about. *The chief*, the officer in command of the party sent out to recapture Medeia. *Be it so then*, we agree to the proposal. *Plague*, calamity ; evil. *A plague.....us*, she has put us to a very great trouble. *The house*, the family. *Take.....wiser*, you may carry her with you since you do not listen to reason. *Rich presents*, costly gifts. *Breed*, produce ; cause.

Came down upon, attacked. *Swept*, carried. *Spent*, exhausted ; worn out. *Blinding rain*, rain which fell very heavily. *Gave up*, lost. *Touched the ground*,

On his brigadier's pay they could afford something pleasant in the way of a house, a car as well. 1937 was a marvellous year in their lives and they came home brimming with excitement at the long profitable days ahead.

There was an exuberant reunion with the boys, a whirl of shopping in London and the meeting with friends they had not seen for six years. Montgomery, with the three pips and the crown on his shoulder, his red tabs, looked over his brigade at Portsmouth. Something like five thousand men under his command now. Well, that was something. He would make them the finest fighting organization in England.

Close to Portsmouth they searched for and found their house. It was a little large for them, perhaps a little too resplendent and expensive, but they liked it, and anyway the future stretched ahead. It would be ideal for the boys as they grew up. Together they worked eagerly on the making of this, their first real home. Montgomery took on this new piece of staff work with exuberance: furniture, carpets, books, garden—all just a matter of smooth organization. By midsummer the place was almost ready for them. Separate bedrooms for the boys, spare rooms for guests, the reception rooms and the study.

While the final touches were being added, Montgomery was called away to manœuvres with his new brigade, an event he was looking forward to with enthusiasm since it would be an opportunity to put some of his ideas into practice.

It was decided that Betty, at the same time, should take her summer holidays with David at Burnham-on-Sea. Then the whole family would unite in the new home at Portsmouth.

On the beach one day Betty suddenly felt unwell. Something had bitten her on the leg—an insect or an animal of some kind; she could not afterwards remember what it was. By the time she got home to her rooms with David the infection seemed to have spread, and she felt weak and faint. A doctor was called. A few hours later Montgomery, on manœuvres, was informed that his wife had been taken to hospital at Burnham-on-Sea. It was nothing seriously to worry about—an insect bite; but his wife had been rather run down with the excitement and the activity of coming home to England and it was thought best to have her in the hospital for observation.

Montgomery hurried over. He found his wife much worse. The infection was spreading fast and nothing seemed capable of retarding it. By now the leg was badly swollen. A second opinion was called in. The maddening thing was that no one could determine just what insect had made the bite or what the nature of the poison. It spread steadily and implacably.

act as a servant. *To guard*, to watch upon. *Furnace*, an inclosed place for maintaining a hot fire. *Flames*, burns,

Have water, procure water. Or, else; otherwise. *Flesh and blood*, human beings. *Face fairly*, oppose without fear. *They say*, 'they' is used indefinitely, meaning people in general. *Vein*, artery. *Liquid fire*, fire in a liquid or watery state; (as distinguished from ordinary fire which is in a gaseous state). *I know.....placed*, I am not aware of the position of the nail. *Get... ..hands*, once get hold of it. *In peace*, without any danger.

Bade.....shore, wished to be left on the shore. *Row off again*, return to the ship. *Unwillingly*, reluctantly. *Were ashamed*, thought it beneath their dignity. *Trust her freely*, let her go confidently. *Windings*, turnings.

P. 157. *Left*, put; placed. *Strode back*, returned with long steps. *From head to heel*, all over his body. *The grass hissed and smoke*, a hissing sound and smoke arose from the grass. *Beneath his tread*, as he walked over it.

Sweet, pleasant. *Must die*, are sure to die. *Must* denotes certainty. *Must rust*, shall surely be consumed by rust. *Gnaws*, destroys; devours. *In their turn*, one by one. *But.....ever*, but it is more pleasant to acquire immortality. *Ichor*, on ethereal fluid that supplied the place of blood in the veins of the gods. *Bounding*, joyful.

Held up, displayed. *Flask*, bottle; phial. *Crystal*, a variety of glass, more perfect in its composition and manufacture than ordinary glass. *Enchantress*, witch. *Reward*, recompense. *His fame.....lands*, his fame is spread all over the world.

False, treacherous. *Simple*, credulous. P. 158. *Dip.....yourself*, make yourself cool by plunging into the sea. *Burn*, scorch. *Tender*, soft. *Secret*, hidden. *Drew out*, took out. *Instead*, instead of it. *Spouted forth*, rushed out. *Betrayed*, deceived. *Sank*, fell down. *Beneath*, through the influence of. *Clanked heavily*, rang with a loud sound. *Herel*, the hinder part of the foot. *Lava*, molten rocks that issue from a volcano in the form of a stream. *Water* is here a verb,=supply with water.

Fell down, knelt down. *Inhospitable*, unfriendly. *Adventures*, hazardous events. P. 159. *Purged*, purified. *Guilt*, crime; sin. *Rode away*, sailed away; by Fig. Metaphor, a ship is said to ride the sea. *All worn and tired*,



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Still, up to the present day. *By.....mean*, which signifies Page 162. *Feeble*, weak. *Grows young again*, is renovated. *Through bitter pains*, by means of a painful process.

Do to, treat. *Will.....again*, will be restored to youth and vigour. *Half the spell*, part of the charm. *Failed*, did not succeed. *Came to misery*, became miserable. *Cured*, healed

Wronged her, insulted her. *He was ungrateful to her &c.*, Jason and Medcia were expelled from Iolcos by Acastus the son of Pelias, whereupon they fled to Corinth and lived there happily for some time till Jason deserted Medeia in order to marry Glauce, daughter of the king of the country Medeia took a fearful revenge for this. She sent Glauce a poisoned garment, which burnt her to death when she put it on. Her father likewise perished in the flames. Medeia also killed her children by Jason, viz., Mermerus and Pheres, and then fled to Athens in a chariot drawn by winged dragons. *Terrible*, fearful. *To speak*, to mention. *Stands*, exists. *Warning*, prohibition. *To seek.....persons*, to ask the help of the wicked. *Ends*, objects ; aims. *Use*, employ. *Adder*, a kind of snake,

The hunting of the boar &c. Calydon, is an ancient town of Aetolia said to have been founded by Aetolus or his son Calydon. *Meleager*, son of Œneus, king of Calydon, was one of the most famous Ætolian heroes of Calydon, and distinguished himself by his skill in throwing the javelin. He took part in the Argonautic expedition. On his return home, the fields of Calydon were laid waste by a monstrous boar, which Artemis had sent against the country, because Oeneus once neglected to offer up a sacrifice to the goddess. No one could encounter the terrible animal till at length Meleager, with other heroes (Heracles, Theseus, and others too numerous to name), went out to hunt the boar, and slew the animal. *Heracles' twelve famous labours*, have already been mentioned. *The seven who fought against Thebes*; The following is a brief account of this war. *Œdipus*, son of Laius of Thebes and his wife Jocaste, unknowingly killed his own father (as it had been foretold that he would do) and then, having solved the riddle of the sphinx, he became king of Thebes and married his own mother by whom he had 2 sons,

CHAPTER SIX

MAD GENERAL

I

FOR five months Montgomery was alone in the great empty house at Portsmouth. Except for his work he would not come out. Each day he performed his job—precisely, punctually, industriously. Then back to the house.

He had no friends. His sister Una and members of his family tried to argue with him, tried to distract him from his solitude. It was useless. Almost angrily he turned them aside. He wanted simply to be alone. He felt no desire to discuss what had happened with anybody. Even when he returned from Burnham-on-Sea to the manoeuvres he plunged at once into the military affairs on hand with the other officers. He said nothing of his loss, and in the face of that rigid outer indifference no one cared to offer sympathy.

If there is any mystery in Montgomery's life it probably lies here in these dark months in the winter of 1937. No one quite knows what he thought or did during the long hours when he was entirely alone in his house with his son. Clearly it was no ordinary struggle for reconciliation with life.

The marriage had lasted just ten years. He was not fifty. To a deeply religious mind the tragedy could only suggest one thing; the Lord had given and the Lord had taken away.

But this was an active and aggressive mind as well, and now it was opposed by something it had never admitted—utter defeat. There was nothing, absolutely nothing he could do about it.

The struggle dragged on for months. Referring to it later Montgomery said shortly, "My married life was absolute bliss. The death of my wife was a shattering blow from which I recovered with great difficulty, and very slowly."

In the end, as it had to be, the issues with himself were settled. Late in the spring of 1938 he emerged from his seclusion.

Outwardly it seemed as if he had simply chosen the obvious course: he would devote himself to the bringing up of his son and for the rest he would continue his career in the Army. Actually a much more fundamental change had taken place. The balance had gone out of his life. The old im-balance had

that has destroyed all the Centaurs. *Agony*, extreme pain. *Who...immortality*, who will become immortal in my place.

Set free, liberated. So Cheiron gave him his immortality &c., the following is an account of Cheiron's death:—"In his pursuit of the Erymanthian Boar (Labour IV.) Hercules came to the Centaur Pholus, who had received from Dionysus a cask of excellent wine. Heracles opened it, contrary to the wish of his host, and the delicious fragrance attracted the other Centaurs, who besieged the grotto of Pholus. Heracles drove them away; they fled to the house of Cheiron; and Hercules, eager in his pursuit, wounded Cheiron, his old friend, with one of his poisoned arrows; in consequence of which Cheiron died." (*Dr. Smith*), according to others, Cheiron, while looking at one of the arrows, dropped it on his foot and wounded himself. Zeus placed Cheiron among the stars. P. 164. *Grand and mild*, majestic and soft.

In time, as time went on. *Silver-tongued old man*, the old man who talked very sweetly. *Yet their fame..... day*, yet they also are famous up to the present time. *The ten year's siege of Troy*, Paris, a son of king Priam of Troy, carried off Helen, the wife of Menelaus; in consequence of which Troy was invaded by all the princes of Greece, including Achilles, Agamemnon and others, and reduced after a siege of 10 years. The story is mentioned in the *Iliad* of Homer one of the finest and grandest books in the world. *Achilles' quarrel with the kings*, in the tenth year of the siege, the Greeks captured two Trojan maidens, Chryseis and Briseis; the former of whom fell to the share of Agamemnon while Briseis was allotted to Achilles. On Agamemnon's repulsing Chryses, who had come to stipulate for the ransom of his daughter, Apollo visited the Greek army with a plague and Chryseis had to be given up. Agamemnon then threatened to wrest Briseis from Achilles, who gave her up at Athene's intercession but refused to take any part in the war. This is the quarrel alluded to in the Text. *Odysseus*, the Greek form of Ulysses the prince of the island of Ithaca, and one of the principal Greek heroes in the Trojan War. After the fall of Troy, he had to wander about for 20 years before reaching home. *Ithaca*, a small island in the Ionian Sea. *Penelope*, was the wife of Ulysses, during whose absence,

and to obtain a correct perspective we have to hurry quickly through them until he reaches that point in 1942 when his course at last is definitely set.

2

In the 9th Brigade at the beginning of 1938 the soldiers began to feel an iron hand. On Salisbury Plain they swept everything before them.

In one manœuvre after another they were streets ahead of everyone else. Once again Montgomery's men made no great show on parade. There were arguments and difficulties. But in the field they raced in front of their rivals with many unexpected tactics and a most unusual enthusiasm for those peaceful days.

The Brigadier was seldom with the staff and usually with the soldiers. He had absorbed utterly his own teaching that "the soldier is the first weapon of war", and he entered into their lives with a curious persistence. The incident over the Welfare Fund is typical. The funds in the brigade were low, and Montgomery wanted money to provide his men with sports materials and other facilities. Opportunely the promoter of a fair approached him with an offer of £1000 for the rental of the Clarence Football Ground at Portsmouth for ten days over the August Bank Holiday period.

The ground was Government property, normally used by the military. Montgomery had no objection to giving it up for ten days at this rate of payment. He was urged by the Mayor to put the price up to £2000, and eventually a compromise at £1500 was agreed upon. But when the project was laid before the full Portsmouth City Council for approval it was turned down. Montgomery returned to the attack. If the Council would agree he would cut them in on the deal: they should have £500 for local charities. Upon this the Council changed its mind, the ground was let and the money paid over.

All these happy negotiations were put through without particular reference to Whitehall. It was not until everything was settled that the War Office learned with pained surprise that one of its junior brigadiers was going around letting Crown property—letting it, moreover, for the purpose of a common Bank Holiday fair. At once a letter was dispatched to Portsmouth. The proceedings were forbidden. In any event, if money had been collected for the rental of the ground it

tokens of his success ; whereupon Ægeus, thinking that his son was lost, threw himself into the sea. Theseus then ascended the throne in the midst of universal applause. His next celebrated adventure was the expedition against the Amazons. The Amazons in their turn invaded Attica and penetrated into Athens itself, and the final battle in which Theseus overcame them was fought in the very midst of the city. He eventually retired to the court of Lycomedes, the king of Scyros, who carried him to a high rock under the pretext of showing him the extent of his dominions and threw him down a deep precipice. In 469 B. C. the bones of Theseus were discovered by Cimon in Scyros and brought to Athens where they were deposited in a temple (the *Theseum*) erected in honor of the hero. A festival in his honor was celebrated on the 8th day of each month. *But*, except; a Preposition. *Aithra*.....*him*, Aithra was cheerful only when she saw him. *Forgotten*, abandoned. *To go up to*, to climb. *Poseidon*, called *Neptune*, by the Romans, was the god of the Mediterranean Sea. *Sit* is in the Infinitive Mood. Object of "*used*." *Looking out across the bay*, casting her looks all over the bay and on to its opposite shore. "*The bay*" is the Saronic Gulf, a part of the Ægean Sea lying between Attica and Argolis and containing the islands of Ægina and Salamis. *Methana*, a town and peninsula in Argolis, lying between the towns of Troezen and Epidaurus. *Ægina*, a rocky island of volcanic origin, situated in the middle of the Saronic Gulf about 200 Stadia (or 23 miles nearly ; a *stadium*=606 feet 9 inches) in circumference. *Purple peaks*, mountain tops that looked purple because of the mass of mineral substances lying upon them. The minerals ejected in volcanic eruptions are red colored. *Attic shore beyond*, Attica which lay on the other side of the Gulf. *Attica*, a division of Greece, has the form of a triangle, two sides of which are washed by the Ægean Sea. *Looking...beyond*, the meaning is that the range of her vision embraced the Saronic Bay, the peninsula of Methana, the peaks of Ægina and Attica situated on the farther coast. *Thickets*, groups of trees or shrubs. *Temple Yard*, the open ground enclosed by the walls of the temple. *Plane tree*, a kind of large tree much found in North America. *Beneath whose shade*, under which. *Arbutus*, the straw-berry tree. *Lentisk*, a tree growing on islands and coasts of the Mediterranean;

Basically the two professionals were in agreement. And now not only Wavell but a few of the really outstanding men in the Army, like Alan Brooke, began to see a very likely horse and a very useful cat-burglar in the ardent trainer of the excellent 9th Brigade.

In Palestine the Jewish-Arab brawl was flaring strongly. Two divisions were to be sent out under the command of General Haining. One of the divisions was to go to an energetic little Irishman named Richard O'Connor. The other, the 8th Division, fell to Montgomery. It was a tremendous leap ahead. Wavell commented upon the new major-general from Portsmouth: "He will do extremely well".

Hurriedly Montgomery made his final arrangements for his son. For the last time he closed up the lonely house, and with his eyes fixed firmly ahead as though enclosed in blinkers he set sail for Palestine.

3

This was the nearest thing yet to war. The situation had got much worse in Palestine since Montgomery was last there in 1931. That rubbery declaration of Balfour's which at once defined and failed to define the British attitude to Palestine was bearing its rich ripe rotten fruit. The problem then was as simple and as insoluble as it is now—two people wanted the same small poor country and there was not enough room for both of them. For years the number of Jews legally entering the country on a fixed quota had been exasperating the Arabs already in possession. The Arabs had dwelt a long time in the hot sun. The Jews coming from Central Europe were educated, efficient, ruthlessly determined and some of them were fired with a holy zeal. They had no difficulty in creating and gaining markets; in ousting the Arabs from the best of the trade. More than this: they were developing a talent for the land. They farmed exceedingly well, they worked hard. Their communal groups were models in social behaviour to all mankind. They began to skim the cream of the dollars from the tourist.

Divided against themselves, relatively lazy and inefficient, the Arabs looked on in dark and helpless anger. They saw the whole of their land slipping away to the invader, and their protests took the form of unreasoning and hot-headed violence. The sniping began, the brawls by night. It was the outburst of the child who feels he is being treated unjustly. Unable to argue their case in high political courts they shot at the first Jew that came along. And the Jews rose to defend themselves.

Said to himself, thought. *The day shall come, I will lift; shall* with the 2nd and the 3rd persons and *will* with the first denote promise or certainty. *In order to grow*, with a view to growing. *Wrestling*, the art of grappling together in which each man tries to overthrow his adversary. *Boxing*, the act of fighting with the fist. *Hurling*, a certain game of ball. *Taming horses*, i.e., reducing them from a wild to a domestic state. *Coursing*, chasing; pursuing. *Phaia the wild sow of Crommyon*, Phaia was the name of a sow which lived at Crommyon, in Megaris, and which ravaged the neighborhood and was slain by Theseus. *Crommyon*, was a town in Megaris on the Saronic Gulf, afterwards belonging to Corinth; celebrated in mythology on account of its wild sow Phaia.

Theseus...you are, if you do not lift the stone this day, Theseus, you will never know your origin and the mission you have to perform. *Tugged*, pulled. *His...him*, he took heart; he was encouraged. *If...body*, even if I die. *It shall up*, I will lift it up. *Up* is here used as a Verb. *Rolled over*, turned. *With a shout*, with an exclamation of joy.

P. 168. *Bronze*, a mixed metal composed of copper, zinc and tin, which is used in making statues, common swords &c. *Hilt*, handle. *Sandal*, a kind of shoe consisting of soles fastened to the foot. *Burst through*, rushed through. *Leapt*, came leaping. *Holding them* &c. so that she could see them.

Wondering, struck with surprise. It qualifies *Theseus* through the Verb *stood* to which it is complement. *Hidebosom*, conceal them in your clothes which you wear upon the breast.

Sacred holy. *Outside.....wall*, out of the temple. *At our feet*, lying at the base of the mountains. *Bred*, brought up. It is the Past Participle of *breed*. *Wherebred*, is an Adjective clause, qualifying. "*Træzene*." The student should note that clauses (i) introduced by *where* and preceded by some noun of place; (ii) introduced by *when* and preceded by some noun of time and (iii) introduced by *why* and preceded by some noun of cause or reason, are Adjective clauses. *But.....land*, only a small country. *But* is an adverb, meaning *only*. *Barren*, unproductive. *Rocky*, covered with rocks. *Looks towards*, faces. *Bleak*, desolate. *Beyond*, i.e., on the other side of of the Gulf. *Where.....dwell*, which is inhabited by the

foundly unprejudiced in their quarrel. Anyone who illegally used a gun was an enemy, to be arrested and imprisoned. All the rest lay with the politicians.

The 8th Division was assigned to the northern half of the country and Montgomery set up his headquarters at Haifa by the sea. He knew the country well. He knew exactly what he wanted to do. And he controlled his division as though, in fact, it was in a state of open war. On his flank he had an equally resourceful commander in O'Connor, and the situation altered from the moment of their arrival. Each outburst from either Jew or Arab was followed by immediate reprisal. An efficient intelligence system began to operate. Villages being used as headquarters by insurgent tribesmen were suddenly surrounded in the night, their houses searched and burned and their illegal stores of arms and rifles seized. Murderers were promptly shot. It was the surgical method, which was probably the least bloody in the long run. For the first time in many a day Palestine came under a strong hand. Trade began to flow again. The basic problem was still entirely unsolved but the rebels were sucked dry, and at least, if general war should come, Palestine would from now on remain a safe base of operations for the Army and the Fleet.

In the midst of these labours Montgomery suddenly fell critically ill for the first time in many years. A spot developed on his lung. Coming on top of his war wound this was an illness that refused to respond to treatment. His temperature stayed alarmingly high. He grew worse. In Palestine nothing more could be done for him and for the second time in a quarter of a century it was expected he would die.

At last, in the summer of 1939, a helpless cot case, he was flown down to Port Said in the care of two nursing sisters and an orderly. He was very feeble and quite unable to stir from his bed. On a Sunday night he was carried on board a P. and O. liner headed for England. Many tourists lined the decks to watch the strange arrival of the sick man. He was so tightly swathed in blankets on his stretcher that he appeared to be in a strait-jacket. As he reached the deck under so many curious eyes Montgomery heard one tourist say to another: "Who is he? What are they making all this fuss about?"

And the answer: "Haven't you heard? It's a mad general. They have to use a strait-jacket to keep him down."

It was a statement with which many people in the Army would have already at this time have found themselves in warm agreement.

At the height of his illness in Palestine Montgomery had

town of the same name upon it. *Hymettus* and *Pentelicus* are mountains in Attica. *Athens*, the capital of Attica, at present of Græce. It was the resort of learned men of all countries in ancient times. *All.....round*, these were Mounts *Lycabettus* in the north east of the city; and the *Areopagus*, the *Pnyx*, the *Museum* and the *Hill of the Nymphs* within the city. *Midway.....sea*, in the middle of the bay; equidistant from Athens and Trœzene. *For purple.....sea*, because his vision was obstructed by the island of *Ægina* which lay in the sea midway between Athens and Trœzene.

Grew great, began to swell. *His.....him*, he was inspired with ambition. *If I were*, could I become. This form of Subjunctive Mood is used to denote condition with uncertainty or doubt; e. g. the full meaning of the sentence here is "If I could become king of such a land *but it is not certain whether I can or not.*" *Well.....might*, with a wisely beneficent but strong hand. *That* denotes purpose. *Shepherd*, (by Fig. Metaphor), guardian, protector. [*Metaphor* is a compressed simile, i.e., a comparison between two objects, without the sign of comparison] Here a king is compared to a shepherd : just as a shepherd tends and guards his flock, so does a king support and protect his people.

Ægeus king of Athens, was the father of Theseus, whom he begot by his wife Aithra, daughter of Pittheus of Trœzene. *Pallas' hill*, a hill in Athens sacred to the goddess Pallas or Athena. In ancient times the Athenian kings had their residence or palace upon it. *Pledge*, token. *Take*, accept.

Fated, destined. *Must be*, must come to pass. *Grief.....grieve*, sorrow has no terror for those whose life has been spent in sorrow. *Full.....womanhood*, my youth and womanhood have been spent in sorrow. *For*, on account of. *Bellerophon*, son of Glaucus, king of Corinth, was originally called Hipponous, and received the name Bellerophon from the circumstance of his having killed his brother Bellerus. To purify himself from the sin he fled to the court of Prætus, whose wife fell in love with him, and on his rejecting her offers, accused him of having made improper proposals to her. Prætus, thereupon, sent him to Iobates king of Lycia with the request that the latter would kill Bellerophon. Iobates sent him to kill.

Chamberlainism was dying hard. A virtue was found for Munich: it had given us "breathing space" (though not perhaps much space for those valuable Czech divisions which had been flung into Hitler's lap). A few serious officers like de Guingand had gone to Germany (at their own expense) and had come back appalled by what they had seen of the weight and efficiency of the Army there.

In England it is probably fair to say that the people were ahead of both their Government and their Army. They saw or sensed the coming cataclysm, and this time there was added to this realization a nameless dread of what war would mean. It was a dread that clogged coherent thought and, along with every other Government department, the War Office seemed to be gripped by a fatalistic apathy.

In tanks and guns and vehicles of every kind it was a repetition of the sad vicious story of 1914. For years professionals like Montgomery had raged and railed but none of them were at the top yet. In every regiment there were officers who had hung on simply because "soldiering was the thing to do". The reorganization and the clean sweep that might have been done twenty years earlier had never happened. To do the Higher Command justice, they had never been given the money to rebuild on a sound footing. But in some ways this small and hopelessly out-of-date professional army was worse even than a disorganized and enthusiastic citizen army might have been; when the money was poured at its feet there was no good machinery for using it and few who had the moral courage to break through the red tape and adopt innovations. The new system had to be encrusted on the old. Nearly everything that had happened in 1914 was about to happen again, with just this exception. By some extraordinary turn of fate three of the very ablest professional officers were actually in command of striking forces when the zero hour arrived.

Neither Brooke nor Alexander nor Montgomery was yet high enough to alter the broad tide of events. But at least they were senior enough to get to France together with a measure of tactical control. When six more years passed, when many others with equal and better chances had vanished from active service, those three were still going to be found together—at the top. After all the justifiable criticism of the Army is made it is only fair to remember that brilliant men did eventually emerge, and no fool or laggard held a high command in an active theatre for very long.

The war had already begun when Montgomery got command of the 3rd Division in October. There was time for

were originally ants who were metamorphosed into men, but still retained their red colour in the hair. *Troy* or *Ilium*, was an ancient city in the north-west of Asia Minor, near Mount Ida, the capital of a kingdom of the same name. *Sack*, pillage. *Set me free*, liberate me. *Thralldom*, slavery. *Tale*, account. *Fame*, glory. *The sons of the swan.....tale of Theseus' fame*, The story alluded to in these passages runs as follows:—Helen, the daughter of Zeus and Leda and sister of Castor and Pollux [see note on “sons of the swan” above] was of surpassing beauty. While yet a girl, she was carried off by Theseus and Pirithous to Attica [see “Theseus” *supra*]. When Theseus was absent in Hades, Castor and Pollux undertook an expedition to Attica, to liberate their sister. They took Athens, delivered Helen, and captured Aithra, mother of Theseus, whom they carried as a slave to Sparta. On her return home, Helen was married to Menelaus; but subsequently she was seduced and together with Aithra, carried off to Troy by Paris, son of Priam of Troy. This led to the celebrated Trojan war, which lasted for ten years and ended in the capture and sack of Troy by the Greeks and the destruction of all the principal Trojans. Helen was recovered, and Aithra set free, by her grandson Demophon. *Beyond that*, after my delivery from Trojan thralldom. *I see new sorrows*, I dream that new sorrows shall befall me. *Bear*, endure.

PART II.—HOW THESEUS SLEW THE DEVOURERS OF MEN.

P. 172. *So*, i.e., after his mother had gone into the temple. *Thought of*, proposed. *Harbour*, sea-port. *Hiring*, engaging. *The bay*, the Saronic Gulf. *That*, i.e., sailing by a swift ship. *That* is here a Demonstrative Pronoun. *Too.....him*, not swift enough to suit his purpose. *Longed for*, eagerly desired. *To fly*, in order to fly; a Gerundial Infinitive denoting purpose. *A while*, a short time; *while* is here a noun. *His heart.....him*, his courage began to fail. *Said.....himself*, thought. *What if*, i.e., what should I do if. *If my father have*, this is the proper form of the Subjunctive, denoting condition with uncertainty. *About*, near. *Receive*, welcome. *Will* denotes simple futurity. *Since*, is a Preposition, governing the clause “I was born.” *Welcome*, receive.

in the quality and quantity of the weapons we were far below the German standard. It was the purest sophistry to say that the B.E.F. was the best equipped force Britain had ever sent out. We had no tank the equal of the Mark III, no gun as deadly and versatile as the 88, nor had we a dive-bomber. But at this stage of the game it was the fashion to boast; boasting kept up morale and impressed one's friends like the Americans.

It was early decided that when Hitler struck, the B.E.F. should wheel into Belgium. This time the Channel ports had to be guaranteed, and Montgomery's division was chosen to perform a preparatory exercise. Under the eye of the Army commanders it wheeled backwards into France. It was a successful and impressive operation carried out by night. Some of the observers felt that the divisional general made a little too much of himself. He seemed to be forever hurrying about the place. He even attached a coloured light to his car, and when he was asked what it was for he replied with aplomb: "So that the soldiers will know I am there".

Then the spring and the invasion of Norway. The British expedition to Norway; the exclamations in London and Paris, "The best thing that could have happened. This time Hitler really has stuck his head out. How can he succeed without command of the seas?" And, immediately afterwards, the horrible awakening; the first of the British evacuations, and the bitter evidence that the British soldiers had been hastily and ill equipped, that they had been out-manceuvred as though they were a mob of leaderless amateurs. And now, before even the realization of all this could sink in, the first monstrous and bewildering shock of the assault on the mainland in Europe.

On May 10th, Montgomery's 3rd Division was in motion. For months they had been trained in quick movement and now they streamed across the border into Belgium. On the following day they made contact, and the long shambles back to Dunkirk began. For twenty days the division kept formation in an arena where everything seemed to have gone mad—no rest, no time for anything except retreat. One after another the pathetic weapons crumbled up under an onslaught of unthinkable power. The air assault alone seemed enough to paralyse all action. In this awful emergency not only were men dying at the front, but a violent reshuffle was going on among their most senior officers in the rear. Brooke was singled out for higher promotion as one of the few clear brains in this madhouse. Alexander had the First Corps. The Second Corps was now temporarily handed over to Montgomery,

Lowland, the country lying at the foot of the mountains. *Grew*, became. *Damp*, moist. *Clouds.....head*, clouds struck his head producing a sensation of dampness in him. *Damp* is an Adjective, used as an Adverb modifying "drove."

Went up.....ever, continued to ascend for a long time. *For ever*, is an example of Fig. *Hyperbole* or *Exaggeration* (a figure of speech in which things are spoken of as being greater or less, better or worse, than what they actually are; e.g. "They were swifter *than eagles*. P. 174. *The spider's web of glens*, the valleys that spread out like the web of a spider; Fig. *Metaphor*. *Till he could.....west*, till he reached high enough to command a view of the surrounding gulfs. These gulfs were, on the north the Corinthian Gulf; on the south the Laconic Gulf; and on the east the Saronic and Argolic Gulfs. *Cracks*, crevices; fissures. It is in apposition to *glens*. *Half-choked*, partially closed. *Dreary*, dismal; gloomy. *Down*, low herbage.

Over.....go, he must cross that down. *Right or left*, these words should be parsed as Adverbs of place, modifying "Was." *Toiled on*, proceeded with a great deal of difficulty; struggled on. *Bog*, marsh. *Brake*, a place overgrown with shrubs and brambles. *Pile*, heap.

Wrapt in, covered with. *Served him for*, answered the purpose of. *Grinned*, looked out horribly. *Tied*, fastened. *White*=whitely; an Adverb. *Glens*, valleys. *Rattled*, resounded.

Fair fly, Periphetes calls Theseus by this name because the *fly* is the natural food of the spider. *And.....web*, this is the question put to Theseus by Periphetes. *Steadily*, without flinching; boldly. *Made no answer*, remained silent. *Has.....me*, shall I have to undertake a hazardous task so soon. *Louder than ever*, louder than formerly. *Finds.....out*, goes out. *Sucks*, draws with the mouth the blood of. *Feast upon*, eat. *Of no use*, useless. *It is.....away*, you cannot fly from me. *Cunning*, ingenuous. *Hephaistos*, (called *Vulcan* by the Romans) is the god of fire, the son of Zeus and Hera. In ancient poetry, he is described as a cunning artist, the workman of the gods. P. 175. *Clefts*, cracks. *Through..... home*, through which no man can return home.

TELEPHONE FROM WHITEHALL

I

ON the collapse of the British Army at Dunkirk, Brooke was made Commander-in-Chief of the Home Forces, General Auchinleck was given the Southern Command and Montgomery (largely as a result of Brooke's report upon him) was promoted to the Fifth Corps. He was still a long way down the scale, but at least he had charge of one of the vital sectors where the Germans were expected to land.

This was in September 1940, and a frenzy of digging was sweeping southern England. In an almost religious fervour gangs of men were throwing up earthworks, running trenches along the valleys and the hillsides, excavating anti-tank ditches, making air-raid shelters. Presently every village cross-roads began to sprout dragons' teeth, and millions of yards of barbed wire spread like an evil and surrealist tropical creeper across the countryside. One after another the village tea-shops and the local banks began to disappear behind piles of sand-bags. In tens of thousands mines were sown along the beaches, and a great tide of pillboxes, gun emplacements and barbed-wire entanglements began to spread inland up the cliff-face and across the counties of Kent and Sussex and Hampshire. The Home Guard arose; elderly country gentlemen got down their shot-guns and prepared to defend their land with great fierceness—as they undoubtedly would have done had the emergency arisen.

As usual Montgomery found himself in disagreement with a great deal of this. He said that everybody seemed to have become "concrete-minded". He had no belief in trenches or earthworks or permanent fixed lines of defence. The battle, he argued, was a fluid thing. Mobility was the vital factor in defence. Once men were stuck in garrisons they lost their initiative and they grew over-optimistic about the false security of their trenches. You had to come out and meet the enemy: all defence must be conducted offensively and a commander must have freedom of movement to strike at the best places at the right time. It was fatal to sit still and let the enemy pile up reserves against you. And then outflank you.

He stopped the digging within his command. He began to

of the club and the bearskin which he carried, they mistook for Periphetes. *Dived*, plunged. *Coots*, a species of waterfowl, frequenting lakes and other still waters. *Vanished*, disappeared. *Strange fancies*, whims; fantastic or capricious ideas. *Folk*, people. *Who run away*, since they or because they run away. The Relative Pronoun here denotes cause. *From strangers*, at the sight of or on seeing strangers. *Have no...dance*, dance without any accompanying music. *Tired*, wearied. *Dusty*, covered with dust. *Thought.....them*, forgot them; gave them no more thought. P. 177. *Pool*, fountain; spring. *Sang him to sleep*, lulled him to sleep. *To* denotes effect. The meaning is, "he was so tired that the tinkling of the water appeared to him to be soft music, the effect of which, was to make him sleep." *Tinkled down.....stone*, made a tinkling sound as it fell in drops from one stone to another. *To tinkle* is to make a sharp sound, as by striking on metal. *As*, is a Subordinative Conjunction denoting manner: .

Whispering, Verbal Noun. *Peeping*, looking. *Across the fountain*, from the other side of the pool. *Cushions*, pillows.

He sleeps.....crows, he is dead. *Leapt across the pool*, came jumping to the other side of the spring. *How.....club-bearer*, Direct Object of "told;" the Indirect being "them". *In peace*, peacefully. *Not.....dance*, fearlessly dance to music. *Match*, equal. *Has.....match*, has found one who was equal to him in strength.

Brought him, brought for him. *Begged*, requested. *To stay*, to remain as their guest. *I have a great work to do*, here *work* may be parsed as the object of the Transitive verb "have" and "to do" as the Complement (objective) of the same verb; or "to do" as the object of "have" and "work" as the object of "to do". P. 178. *Be away*, go away. *Must* denotes duty or necessity. *That* denotes purpose, and *may*, possibility. *Will you go*, is it your wish (or intention) to go. In Interrogative sentences. *Will* with the *second* Person and *Shall* with the *first* and the *Third* asks the wish, intention or permission of the person spoken to. *None travel*, no body journeys. Properly speaking, *none*, as a compound of *no* and *one*, should be followed by a singular verb; but some writers use it indiscriminately. *Way*, is the

would wait nervously for their interviews outside his room, and many of them came out later on with a sigh of relief. It was a headquarters without relaxation, and the place was dominated by the chilling and ascetic habits of the General.

Each morning soon after dawn his tea was brought to him. Then for something like half an hour or even longer he lay in bed thinking, planning each minute of the day. Every hour went by on a set routine: morning conference, correspondence (he liked to write in his own hand with a fountain-pen), interviews, round of inspections, evening conference, dinner in the mess, bed at nine-thirty to write his diary, read a little, think, and then to sleep.

Sleep, like everything else, was under command and subject to immediate obedience. He ordered himself to sleep, and sleep he did.

In his presence no one lit a cigarette unless they were expressly given permission. When he spoke the room fell silent. No one coughed, if he could avoid it. If, when addressing a group of officers, he found them unable to control their colds, he paused, ordered a three-minute interval for coughing, and the Staff sat through the rest of the talk in agony lest they should transgress again. Occasionally when a junior officer found himself unable to block a cough, he felt that cold grey eye on him, an appalling silence filled the room—and if he had any sense he rose with a mumbled apology and left.

There were sackings in the Fifth Corps: cold, electric and sudden dismissals. You were out. Degraded, expelled and banished—and there was no appeal. "I am sorry", the General would say. "But you are of no use to me. None whatever." That was the finish.

Very soon it became painfully apparent that the General was a fanatic for physical training. Elderly colonels who rarely stirred outside an office were appalled to receive orders instructing them to appear in suitable raiment on the parade ground, where they were obliged to go through the undignified procedure of marching at the double and jumping over hurdles. No one on the staff escaped. Often enough these proceedings took place at the crack of dawn. It was outrageous, it was ridiculous, it was Fascist. Inwardly and to one another they protested hotly. Montgomery fixed them with his cold eye and reminded them it was much worse for the men.

It was indeed. One division under his command marched forty miles in eighteen hours—and this at the end of ten days' manœuvring and route marching. Another unit was marched fifty-six miles in fifty hours. In frightful weather, without food

milk, suckled it. *Challenges*, defies. *Over-throws*, defeats. *Palace-court*, the courtyard of his palace.

Frowned, looked sternly. *Ill-ruled*, misgoverned. *Adventures*, subject to the verb "seem" understood. *Tried*, undertaken. *I am...it*, I am to be its king. *Right it*, set it right. *My royal sceptre*, the token of my royalty. A *sceptre* is a staff borne by kings in token of authority. *Clung round him*, closely surrounded him. *Entreated*, begged.

On...nevertheless, still he continued his journey. *Both the seas, viz.*, the Corinthian and Laconic gulfs. *Citadel*, fortress. *The Citadel of Corinth*, Corinth is a city on the Isthmus of Corinth. In the north and south the country is mountainous but in the centre, it is a plain with a solitary and steep mountain rising from it. The city itself was built on the north side of the mountain. *Towering, rising*. *Past swiftly*, went rapidly. *His heart burned*, he eagerly desired. *Met*, came across. *Where*, a Relative Adverb, having for its Antecedent "Pine-wood." *The road.....rocks*, high rocks bounded the road on both sides. *By the wayside*, beside the way. *For a club*, to be used as a club. *For*=in place of. *Across his knees*, sideways on his knees. P. 180. *Hung*, were suspended. *Shouted to*, cried aloud to. *Holla*, an Interjection, drawing attention of the person addressed. *Valiant*, brave.

Leapt to his feet, rose up suddenly. *Pointing to*, indicating with his finger. *Larder*, store-room. *Lately*, recently. *My larder.....lately*, of late, the store of my provisions has diminished. *Rushed on*, attacked. *Lifting*, raising.

Hammered together, struck at each other with their clubs, (as a smith hammers at iron). *Greenwoods*, woods covered with green vegetation. *Till.....rang*, till the woods resounded to the noise. *Tougher*, more difficult to be broken. *The metal.....pine*, the club of Theseus (which was made of bronze) was stronger than that of the robber (which was made of pine); Fig. Synecdoche, the material (metal and pine) being used for the thing made (clubs). *Right across*, just through the middle. *The bronze*, the club of Theseus. *Came down upon*, struck. *Heaved up*, raised. *Stroke*, blow. *Heaved.....stroke*, raised the club for another blow. *Smote down*, struck. *Knelt.....back*, bent over his back. This shews that the

Ger. *Malan*, to grind) in pieces. *Trembling*, shaking with fear; it qualifies *Sciron*, through the verb "*Washed*." *It*=washing. *As*, a Relative Adverb, modifying "*Has done*." *Shall*, denotes certainty. *Thyself*, case in apposition with "*Thou*" understood.

Know, has for its object "*Whether.....him*." *Some say*, it is held by some. *Some* is an Indefinite Pronoun. *Disdained*, thought it beneath their dignity. *Foul*, impure. *Earth and sea.....sin*, his life had been spent so wickedly that the sea as well the land thought it despicable to let his dust mingle with themselves. *Hurled*, threw up. *In anger*, angrily. *The waves.....anger*, the furious waves threw it up to a great height into the air. *Hung*, remained suspended. *Without a grave*, unburied. *Desolate*, cheerless; lonely. *Surge*, a large wave; it stands here for the sea.

This at least is true, so much is true, even if the rest of the story were false. *Which Pausanias tells*, because it is told by Pausanias. The Relative here denotes cause. *Pausanias*, the traveller and geographer, was perhaps a native of Lydia. He lived in 2nd Century A. D. and wrote his celebrated work (the *Itinerary of Greece*) in the reign of Marcus Aurelius. *Porch*, portico. *Figure*, likeness. *Modelled*, fashioned. *Clay*, soft, plastic earth. *Headlong*, with the head foremost; precipitately. *This at least is true, &c. &c.*, It is a fact that Pausanias saw in the royal porch at Athens a figure of Theseus, made of clay in which he was represented as throwing Sciron headlong into the sea.

Went a long day's journey, journeyed for one whole day. *Past Megara*, by the town of Megara though not through it. *Into the Attic land*, within the boundaries of Attica. *High....Cithæron*, in front of him stood the lofty Mount Cithæron most of the peaks of which were covered with snow. *Snow-peaks*, peaks covered with snow: an Unrelated Compound. *Cithæron*, a lofty range of mountains which separated Bœotia from Megaris and Attica. It was covered with wood; abounded in game and was the scene of several celebrated legends in mythology. *All* may be parsed as an Adverb modifying *cold*. *Black pine-woods*, forests of pine-trees that looked black when contrasted with snow that lay upon the top. *Where*, Relative Adverb, having for its Antecedent '*Cithæron*.'

meeting of Home Guard officers. Those who arrived sixty seconds late (including one general) found the doors bolted against them. Indignant and hostile, they were admitted at half-time and sat down to hear an hour's brilliant exposition (I quote the indignant general) of defensive tactics. At the end of his lecture Montgomery announced that he would present a play which he had written himself. While the audience waited fascinated, four soldiers dressed in German uniforms entered carrying umbrellas. As they opened the umbrellas a loud report echoed through the hall, and this, apparently, was to illustrate the arrival of parachutists in England. The four soldiers then lined up on the platform and announced solemnly: "We'll cut the throat of that bastard Montgomery". Finish of play.

Even across the years the mind still reels as it contemplates this exhibition. And yet and yet: 1940. Invasion expected at any moment; perhaps there was something in it. At all events few people in that hall forgot the lecture. Or Montgomery.

2

One might reasonably have expected that, given time, Montgomery would have become the most unpopular general in England. Yet it was not so. 1940 and 1941 were the years of crisis, and under that unthinkable menace of invasion most Englishmen were willing to follow a strong leader anywhere. His dismissals of officers were not nearly so numerous as they were reported to be, and for the most part his decisions were not unjust. The more intelligent and enthusiastic soldiers—especially those who had come into the Army from civilian life—realized that Montgomery was simply doing something which ought to have been done by the Higher Command long ago. The deadwood had to be cut out: the fools and the drunks, the shirkers and the playboys, had no right to authority at this dangerous moment.

As for the men, the majority liked a colourful and eccentric leader. They liked the absence of brass-hattery and pomposity in Montgomery. They appreciated the fact that the bulk of their work went, not into useless ceremonial parades, but into very definite exercises in the trade of war. Deliberately Montgomery cultivated their friendship.

More and more through these years he was growing into a resemblance of that other "soldiers' general" who was born in Virginia, in the United States of America; some hundred years

and in return the goddess gave him a chariot with winged dragons and seeds of wheat. In this chariot, Triptolemus rode over the earth, and made people acquainted with agriculture. *She, Demeter the kind Earth-Mother* are in apposition to each other. *When all the land lay waste*:—the reason was this:—Demeter was the sister of Zeus, by whom she had a daughter Persephone (Proserpine). Without informing Demeter, Zeus had promised Persephone to Aidoneus (Pluto), who carried her off while the unsuspecting maiden was gathering flowers. Her mother wandered about for 9 days in search of her, when, on meeting with Hecate, she went, with her, to Helios (the Sun) who disclosed to her that her daughter had been carried off by Pluto. The goddess thereupon became so angry that she did not allow the earth to produce any fruits. She remained for some time at Eleusis where all the gods were sent to persuade her to return to Olympus, but she refused to do so unless her daughter was given back to her. Persephone was then brought from the Lower Regions and the mother and daughter met at Eleusis; and Demeter allowed the earth to bring forth fruit again. *Sheaf*, ear. *Plough*, till. *Fallows*, uncultivated tracts of land. *Yoke*, put a yoke on. *Kine*, old form of the plural of *cow*. As a matter of fact, *oxen*, not *kine*, are yoked to ploughs. *Sow*, scatter. *Seed-fields*, fields for raising seed. *Reap*, gather. *Golden grain*, ripe grain. *Whosoever*, is a Compound Relative=He who. *Tills*, ploughs. *All men.....land*, the Verb “honour” is in the plural, and correct if taken with “all men,” but if it is taken with “he” (contained in *whosoever*) it is wrong. The construction therefore is “All men honour her, *whosoever tills the land* honours her.” *Beloved*, favourite. *Gave.....men*, distributed corn among labouring classes.

Went.....Eleusis, crossed the plain and entered Eleusis. *Market-place*, the bazaar. *Fall*, overthrow. *I must.....today*, I am determined to wrestle with him to-day? *Crowded*, assembled. *Why.....die*, why do you wish to die. *Hasten out of*, go away hastily from. *Piles*, heaps. Page 184. *Hall*, the principal room in a building.

Whole, without being cut into slices. *Roasted*, fried; as opposed to *boiled*. *Whole jar of wine*, a large vessel of wine full to the brim. *Lonely*, alone. *Wearry*, tired. *The board*, the table. *Ate his fill*, ate till he was satiated.

Of the two men Jackson's is possibly the more saintly and selfless life; but we must place him somewhere in Montgomery's spiritual background. There was much less bitterness in Jackson's career, and fewer complications; but that sense of touch in devotional leadership did not quite go out at Bull Run and in the fields around Richmond. It begins to revive here eighty years later in England.

3

In 1941 Montgomery was removed from the command of the Fifth Corps to the Twelfth Corps, and finally in 1942 to the command of the South-Eastern Army with the rank of lieutenant-general. Already in 1940 he had been made a Commander of the Bath and, in the gathering momentum of his life, it was obvious that he was now headed towards greater honours. He had gone beyond the point where he could be set back through minor eccentricities; now he had the power to impose them upon other people. The rocket was nearing the end of its long, laborious climb from the ground to the point where it could become a law unto itself.

He was beginning to come in contact with people who were really in control of affairs. There had already been a first meeting with Churchill shortly after Dunkirk, when Montgomery took him on a tour of the coastal defences. As they watched a group of Guardsmen dismantling Brighton pier, Churchill remarked sadly that they were hacking away the place where he used to be taken to see the performing fleas as a child.

Cabinet Ministers found the new general docile and obedient in all things except military matters. Then he spoke up strongly and sometimes with insubordination. In all the areas under his command he considered himself master. There was the incident of the Archbishop of Canterbury, who came under Montgomery's care when he was given the South-Eastern Command. The Archbishop declared that if the Germans landed in Kent he would not move. Montgomery had air-raid shelters dug round the Cathedral and declared that the Archbishop would certainly move. Brushing all protests aside he issued strict orders that if the crisis came the Archbishop was to be placed on a train and conveyed northwards.

But in regard to the policy of scorching English earth Montgomery would not listen to it. He would not accept the idea that the Germans would succeed in their invasion. Fruit-

to be our king. The Imperative mood here denotes entreaty. *Stepped forth*, came out of the crowd. *Hast thou slain Sinis?* Beware then &c., if you have slain Sinis, you should beware &c. *Beware*, (Be + wary), be careful. *Kin*, relationship. *Near of kin*, nearly related. *Well.....die*, his sins were so numerous that he deserved to be punished with death. *Purge me from*, purify me of. *Rightfully*, justly. *Unrighteous*, sinful ; wicked. *Accursed*, detestable. *As*, though.

That.....do, the heroes will purify you. *The sons of Phytalus*, the Phytalids were heroes to whom was given the power of purging sinners. *Aphidndi*, a town and district of Attica. In it Theseus concealed Helen, but the place was taken and Helen rescued by her brothers Castor and Pollux. *Silver*, calm and bright. *Cephisus*, the largest river in Attica. *Mysteries*, secrets. *Thither.....king*, you must go and have yourself purified, and then we will make you our king. The 1st *shall*, denotes necessity and the 2nd denotes promise.

Took.....Eleusis, made the Eleusians swear. *Would serve*, were willing to serve. 'Would' denotes wish or consent. *King*, in apposition to "him." *Across*, crossing; from side to side.

Skirting, passing along the borders of. Page 187. *Along*, in a line with the length of. *The foot*, i.e., the base. *Par-nes*, a high mountain in the north-east of Attica. *Came down*, descended from the mountain. *Dressed.....garments*, richly clad. *Bracelet*, an ornament for the arm worn by ladies. *Round...jewels*, the collar which he wore was inlaid with jewels. *Came forward*, advanced. *Court-ously*, politely. *Held out*, extended ; stretched.

Happy.....you, I am glad that I met you. *To have* is a Gerundial Infinitive, used as an Adverb. *Entertain*, receive hospitably. *What.....strangers*, a good man derives the greatest pleasure from the entertainment of strangers. *Castle*, fortress. *I give you thanks*, I am grateful to you.

Wandered, strayed ; deviated. *You.....way*, you have lost your way. *Many miles of mountain*, i.e., many miles of a mountainous road. *Steep*, precipitous. *Pas-ses*, narrow passages running across a mountain chain. *Night-fall*, evening. *There are.....night fall*, you have

The Gazala Line, with its series of strong-points or "boxes", was in a state of disintegration. This was followed by the abysmal and almost incomprehensible collapse of the stronghold of Tobruk in a single day. All cohesion seemed to have vanished from the British command, and even veterans like General Gott were temporarily out of touch. In one widening and chaotic tide the British Army was streaming in disorder back into Egypt.

This time the pendulum was heavily weighted. It swung past the Egyptian border, past Buq Buq and Sidi Barrani, paused at Mersa Matruh and then came on again. At Alamein, the last defensive box before the Nile, a handful of weary and dispirited soldiers were clinging to their positions in early July without much hope of staying there. In Washington Churchill was asking for—and getting—the immediate dispatch of new arms to Egypt. But weeks would elapse before they arrived and in the meantime it appeared most likely that Egypt would fall. The fall of Egypt could mean anything—the loss of Palestine and the Persian oil; perhaps even the linking of the German and Japanese armies (now advancing through Burma) and the collapse of India.

In Cairo wisps of smoke hung over G.H.Q. and the British Embassy, where secret documents were being burned. Already evacuation had begun. Auchinleck started to devise a plan for splitting his armies—one force to remain at Alamein as long as possible and eventually fight its way back to the Suez Canal through the Nile Delta; other forces to save what they could of the wreckage by marshalling in the far south at Khartoum and in the east in Palestine. In Rome Mussolini got out his ceremonial white horse, and a medal was struck to commemorate the expected Axis entry into Alexandria and Cairo.

For a few days the pendulum teetered at Alamein. Then it stuck, unable to swing farther forward—and there was no power to push it back. British, Australian and New Zealand reinforcements struggling up to the line were just able to hold the position and no more. Auchinleck at this time exhibited a generalship for which he has been given little credit. It was certainly he, more than any other man, who stopped the rot at Alamein. But the Army's convalescence from its crisis was proving alarmingly slow.

Through July a series of indecisive attacks and counter-attacks continued along the Alamein Line; and still the enemy were entrenched in great strength a few hours' drive from Cairo. Worse still, there were reports of enemy reinforcements. Malta was on the point of starvation; ship after ship endeavour-

a series of anything arranged one after the other. *Laden* is the Past Participle of *load*. *Watching*, guarding; protecting. *Ware*, goods, merchandise.

Poor souls, wretched men, Fig. Synecdoche, a part (soul) being used for the whole (man). *Well for them*, they are fortunate. *Well for me too*, I also am fortunate. *The more guests*, a larger number of guests. *The*, is a Demonstrative Adverb (by that degree) and qualifies "more." *Feast*, dinner. *Awhile*, (a + while), for a short time. *Live-long*, long in passing. *The livelong night*, all the night. *Night*, is the Adverbial Object of time. *At once*, at one and the same time. *Ran...hill*, descended the hill speedily. *Waving*, moving.

Aged, old. *Drift-wood*, wood floating on the water. *Torrent-bed*, the bed of the torrent. *Bed*, the bottom of a stream. *Faggot*, bundle of wood. *Help.....burden*, help me to raise this burden on my back. *Stiff and weak*, rigid and feeble. *With years*, on account of old age. *With* denotes cause. *Blest him*, wished him joy. *Earnestly*, eagerly; longingly. *Doleful*, dismal. *Road*, is the Adverbial Object of space. P. 190. *Invited*, called. *I know notbed*, upon a wonderful bed the nature of which I do not know. *I know not what*, is a Parenthetical clause.

Clapped, struck his hands together. *Clapping the hands*, is a token of joy; but the words of the old man are expressive of sorrow. *O House.....devouring*, O man eating bellish house. Fig. Apostrophe or address; the old man addresses the house of the robber in which the "wondrous bed" was placed. *Hades*, or Pluto, was the god of the Nether-world and the king of shades (i.e., spirits of departed mortals). According to Greek Mythology, the spirits of men were to be kept in his kingdom and undergo punishments for their crimes till the day of their restoration to peace and happiness. *Maw*, stomach. *Will.....full*, will thy appetite never cease? Wilt thou never be satisfied. *Are going.....death*, are going to a place where you will be tormented and put to death. *Requite*, recompense; return. *I will.....another*, I tell all this to you in return for the favor you have done to me. *Entices*, allures; decoys. *As for*, regarding. *Fits*, suits. *Off it*, from it; *off* denotes separation. *Save*, except; Preposition. *Too tall for it*, taller than the length of the bed. *Lops*, cuts. *Be short enough*,

On August 7th Montgomery was in Scotland with General Paget watching a most secret force at its manœuvres. This was the British First Army and its mission was the invasion of French Algeria on the North African coast. Already General Eisenhower was in England preparing to take command of the operation. General Alexander, back from his campaign in Burma, had been nominated to serve under him as the leader of the First Army.

An urgent telephone call came through for Montgomery from London: he must report to the War Office immediately. It was a bad flying day and Montgomery took the night train down from Scotland. At the War Office he was told by General Nye, the Vice-Chief of the Imperial General Staff, that there had been a change in the arrangement for the high command. Alexander would replace Auchinleck as C.-in-C. of the Middle East. Montgomery would take Alexander's place as the commander of the First Army on the North Africa invasion. He was to interview General Eisenhower the following morning.

Montgomery returned to his headquarters at Reigate and went to bed. He was shaving at seven-thirty the following morning when his A.D.C. hurried in. The War Office had telephoned. General Montgomery was to disregard the conversation of the previous night. Instead he was to stand by to proceed immediately to Egypt to take command of the Eighth Army.

General Gott was dead. His aircraft had been shot down by the Germans at the moment of taking up his appointment.

Montgomery rushed through his arrangements. He did not see the War Office again, and a Liberator was placed at his disposal to leave England the same night. There was just time to say goodbye to his son David and arrange for him to stay at his old school in Surrey. A bedroll was brought; tropical gear. He did not need very much equipment. One A.D.C. was to travel with him.

Again that night the weather was bad and it was decided to delay another twenty-four hours. At nightfall on August 10th the Liberator took off from England with its strange freight: a roll of bedding, an A.D.C., and a general on probation, a thin and unimposing little figure in battledress and a peaked cap ringed with red, a man unknown to the public and the world—

Stript, denuded; deprived. *Stript*.....ornaments, took off his gold ornaments. *Passers-by*, travellers who passed by that way. *Spoiled*, robbed; looted. *Parted*, divided; distributed. *Away*, on his way. P. 193. *Slopes of oak &c.*, slopes covered with oak. *Lentisk*, a low shrubby tree producing a valuable resin. *Arbutus*, a genus of evergreen shrubs resembling strawberry. *Fragrant*, sweet scented; odoriferous. *Bay*, an evergreen shrub, having aromatic leaves. *Mighty*, large. *Elm*, a large shady tree. *Altar*, a table or elevated place on which sacrifices are offered to some deity. *Bathe*, Simple or Noun Infinitive, complement of *bade*, after which the sign 'to' is dropped. *Offer*, present as a sacrifice; (to be parsed as 'bathe' above). *A yearling ram*, a ram, one year old. *Purified*, purged; absolved.

Acharnai, the principal demus of Attica. *By*, here denotes approximity. *The silver swirling stream*, the river which shone like silver when it whirled. This is the river called Achelous, which rises in the Mt. Pindus and falls into the Ionian sea. 'To swirl' means to whirl. *Prowess*, strength. *The fame of his prowess*, his renown as a hero. *Wide*, in all directions; used as an Adverb. *Athene*, or Minerva was the tutelary goddess of Athens. According to the general belief of the Greeks she was the daughter of Zeus, and a goddess in whom power and wisdom were harmoniously blended. She is the protectress of agriculture, the patroness of both the useful and the elegant arts, the patron divinity of the state of Athens, the defender of the state from outward enemies and, in general, the guardian of warriors.

The hill.....dwells, this is the Acropolis, the city on which the Parthenon or the temple of Athena was situated at Athens.

Went.....Athens, walked up the principal street of Athens. *His*.....him people knew how brave and powerful he was before they had seen him *Knew*.....deeds, knew of his success in his struggle with the monsters. *Steadfastly*, firmly; steadily. *Yearned after*, longed to see. *Deliver*, set free; liberate. *Leech*, a worm that sucks blood. *Suck his blood*, are ruining him. *Leeches*.....blood, Theseus is speaking of his cousins (whose account will follow).

The holy stairs, the stairs leading to the temple of Athene. *The Acropolis*; The city of Athens was divided

CHAPTER EIGHT

FORTY HOURS

I

AT 9 a.m. on August 12th, 1942, Montgomery's aircraft put down on the desert outside Cairo. One must consider now, quite separately and distinctly, the next forty hours in this life: they contain the expression of a mind working at the limit of its capacity and the consummation of a long career. This was the moment of the flood-tide, and, just as an expert surf-rider will launch himself on a wave at the precise moment of its breaking and ride on with it in absolute assurance to the shore, so now one can watch this adventurer from hour to hour follow his inspiration quite consciously until it brings him to a conscious and inevitable goal.

From the airport Montgomery drove straight to G.H.Q. in Cairo, a large block of flats called Gray Pillars which had been ringed with barbed wire and converted into a military headquarters. Auchinleck was waiting for him in an office on the third floor.

For Auchinleck, the out-going general, it could hardly be other than a bitter moment. He had worked in a frenzy to the point of exhaustion in these last few tragic months, and almost everything had turned to defeat and disaster as soon as he touched it. Having dismissed one general from the command of the desert army he had appointed another. And when this second general had failed he had delayed too long in taking over himself. True, he had succeeded in holding the Alamein Line and restoring the situation, but by then it was too late to save himself. Churchill had been a rigid and somewhat erratic ruler. Twelve months before, he had forced Wavell against his will to go to Greece instead of continuing on to Tripoli. And when the Greek invasion failed, as it inevitably had to fail, Wavell was dismissed. In the Army there had been some bitterness about this, not so much because the soldiers had been compelled by the politicians to go to Greece, but because Mr. Eden, the foreign minister, had grossly misjudged the Balkan situation. Mr. Eden had visited Turkey and had conducted a further meeting with the Turkish foreign minister in Cyprus. On his return to Cairo Mr. Eden had given the warmest encouragement to the idea that Turkey

him and destroying his young bride by a poisoned garment. She then fled to Athens in her chariot drawn by winged dragons, where she married king Aegeus; but when it was discovered that she had tried to poison Theseus, she escaped and went to Asia, where she married a king, whose descendants were called after her Medes, and the country Media. *Watching her eye and hand*, carefully noticing the motion of her eyes and hands. *Turned pale and red again*, changed color; showed signs of embarrassment and fear. *Like a snake*, scrutinizingly. *What.....you*, what have you to do with Træzene. *Hastily*, quickly. *Cleared, freed*. *Came from*, had his home in. *I must go out*, 'must' denotes duty.

His heart leapt into his mouth, he was deeply moved. *Fall on his neck*, embrace him. P. 196. *Controlled himself*, restrained his feelings. *Wish for me*, desire to acknowledge me. *After all*, taking everything into consideration. *Try, test*. *Discover myself*, say who I am. *Realm, kingdom; country*.

Fond, affectionate; loving. *Heart*, by Fig. Synecdoche (part for the whole), means a man. *What...done*, every affectionate man would have done. This is a question of Appeal. *Worthy of*, deserving of. *It is little.....of you*, I can give you only little but even that little will not be worthy of you. *Mortal*, (L. *Mors, mortis*, death), subject to death. *All I ask*, my only request.

Bade them, ordered the servants. *Them*, is used indefinitely for the servants; as also in "They say &c." (=people in general say &c.) *Set*, place. *Put and Set* are in the Infinitive, the sign.(to) being left out after "bade." *The best of the feast*, the most delicious food. *While*, time; adverbial object of time. *His heart.....Theseus*, he seemed to love Theseus. *Bore himself*, conducted himself; behaved. P. 197. *A pack of curs*, a group of dogs. A 'cur' is a worthless, degenerate dog. *Will.....here*, will assume the supreme authority in this place. *Is nearer to*, is more nearly related to. *Than mere fancy*, than what I imagine him to be. *Will have no.....of*, will not be able to hold their own against.

Modestly, quietly.. *Would that he were*, I wish that he were. *Would* is in the Subjunctive Mood, denoting wish. *Presently*, after a short time; soon after. *Decked in*, ornamented with; decorated with. *Rich*, splendid

In the end Harding agreed to go off and find out what he could. It was arranged that he should present his report at six o'clock that night.

Good. That was one hurdle taken. Montgomery turned to the next thing. He met Alexander. Their friendship went back far beyond Dunkirk to the student days in Camberley.

"Hello, Alex."

"Hello, Monty." They were both very much incognito and the meeting was vaguely reminiscent of two elated but slightly guilty schoolboys.

"Let's go somewhere and talk it over."

Montgomery suggested Shepheard's. Their two A.D.C.s should go ahead, select a quiet corner table, and then leave them.

In Cairo at this time there were four main places where officers went to talk, to gossip and meet one another: the Turf Club, the Gezira Sporting Club on an island in the Nile, the Continental-Savoy and Shepheard's Hotel. The terrace and the lounge of Shepheard's were particularly crowded with officers on leave. They stared with great curiosity when two unknown senior generals came walking through the crowds of suffragis and street vendors and passed into the dingy and mosque-like splendour of the inner lounge.

Except for their mutual enthusiasm for soldiering there was hardly a point in common between the two men. Montgomery was at the full stretch of his intensity and unequivocal eagerness: a quivering reed. Alexander remained as he always was: bland, interested, patient. He was one of those very few men who are inevitably destined for the inner and the higher circles of any society in which they move. In many ways it was a charmed life. Born in the midst of wealth and assured position, the younger son of a titled family, he had passed easily through the best schools and the best regiments. As a young man he was full of natural talents, an excellent horseman, an intelligent and ready conversationalist. He was neither lazy nor insensitive (as he might easily have been). He painted well. He had an Irish sense of humour, an easy manner. And, as if it were not enough that he should have had his charm, his naturalness, his health and rather jaunty good looks, something else had been given him as well: an apparent absence of any physical fear whatever. At Dunkirk, in Burma, and again on many days after this meeting at Shepheard's many people marvelled at his entire disregard of personal danger, the poise and balance of his mind at a crisis when all around high explosive was bursting and men were dying.

become excited on account of drinking. *Caught*, grasped. *Sprang forward to*, advanced towards.

Your blood.....heads, you are responsible for your death. *Railed him*, taunted him. *Lair*, den.

P. 200. *Hurled*, threw. *Rear rank*, the hindmost part of the crowd. *Past*, flew. *Close by*, very near by. *At that*, when the lance had been hurled. *Beat*, overthrew; defeated. *Were left*, were not killed. *Set on*, chased; pursued. *Nightfall*, evening. *All the town i.e.*, all the inhabitants of the town; Fig. Metonymy, (container for the contained). *Sacrifices*, (L. *Sacer*, sacred, and *facio*, I make), gifts to some god or goddess. *All the night long*, throughout the whole night. *Royal house*, regal family.

Stayed, remained. *Winter*, Adverbial object of time. *Equinox*, (L. *Æquus*, equal, and *nox*, *noctis*, night), the time of the year when day and night are equal all over the globe. *Spring equinox*, the equinoxes are two in number:—the one called the Spring equinox falls on the 21st day of March, and the other called the Autumn equinox falls on the 23rd day of September. *Drew near*, approached. *No one.....word*, he could receive no answer. *Would*, denotes wish or inclination. *Beforehand*, previously. *Must happen*, are sure to befall. *Must* denotes certainty. *To have to face*, to be obliged to meet. *When they come*, when they happen.

Herald, in ancient times was an officer whose business was to proclaim war, to challenge to battle, to declare peace, and to bear messages from the commander of an army. *Yearly*, annual. P. 201. *Tribute*, a sum paid in acknowledgment of submission. *Where is your yearly tribute*, give your annual tribute. *Lamentation*, mourning; wailing. *Stood up to*, went boldly to. *Dog-faced*, having the face of a dog. *Demand*, ask as a matter of right. *Who.....here*, who are bold enough to ask tribute in this place. *Reverence*, respect. *Staff*, rod. *Your herald's staff*, the staff which you bear as a herald. *Brain*, dash out the brains of. *With*, denotes instrumentality.

Proudly, haughtily. *Grave*, reserved; sedate. *Ancient*, old. *Do*, obey. *Bidding*, order. *Minos*, the son of Lycastus and Ida, was a king and law giver of Crete. By his wife Pasiphae, he was the father of Androgeus, Ariadne and 6 other children. He aimed at the supre-

Morale must be entirely revived. There must be a considerable regrouping of the whole Army, probably the replacement of certain commanders. Would Alexander give him a free hand?

Yes.

Would he stand behind Montgomery in Cairo and back him up, endeavour to fulfil all reasonable requests from the desert.

Yes.

Looking across the table Montgomery saw that he was trusted completely. He also saw that this trust and his freedom of action would go on just so long as he was successful. If he failed, he was out. While he was trying, Alexander would support him to the limit; but he would have to try very hard indeed. The bargain between them was never broken.

In the afternoon Harding came with his report: Yes, an armoured striking corps could be got together.

"Then go ahead with it", Montgomery said.

The next thing was to get in touch with one more old pupil. De Guingand was in the desert acting as Chief of Staff to the field force. Already he had been for some time in the Middle East, at first in the intelligence branch and latterly in this new position. It was arranged over the long-distance telephone that de Guingand should rendezvous early the following morning at the "Alexandria cross-roads"—the point where the road from Cairo turned west into the open desert.

Montgomery never saw Auchinleck again. Nor was he again to see Cairo until this, his biggest adventure, was resolved one way or the other. He slept that night at the British Embassy on the Nile, and at 5 a.m. on August 13th he left by car with his bedroll on the five-hour drive to the front.

De Guingand, brown and thin, wearing khaki shorts and an open shirt, was waiting at the cross-roads at 8 a.m. They looked at one another curiously, each estimating the other after this absence of years. Up to this point there had been nothing more between them than a few brief meetings, a warm but not hearty mutual esteem; and de Guingand was still well down in the hierarchy of generals. He jumped into Montgomery's car and as they drove on over that particularly vile stretch of the desert road known as "The Ripples" he outlined the situation.

The line was holding and not much more. All counter-attacks had failed to achieve anything definite. Morale was very definitely low. Rommel was expected to attack again at any moment and it would be extremely dangerous. He might even penetrate to Cairo. In that case the Army was under orders to fall back on to the Delta and, if necessary, abandon Egypt.

by what means or in what place. *Waylaid him*, lay in wait for and killed him. *By Oinoe*, near Oinoe, a demus of Attica. *And some that he &c.*, 'say' is understood after "some." *Sent him against*, despatched him to kill. *Marathon*, a demus in Attica, was situated near a bay on the east coast of Attica, 22 miles from Athens. It is well-known in Grecian Mythology as the seat of the celebrated "Bull of Marathon," which devastated the surrounding country and which was afterwards captured and destroyed by Theseus; and in history as the site of the famous battle between the Greeks and the Persians (B. C. 490) in which the latter were totally defeated. *That*, in order that. *Might*, denotes purpose. *From envy*, out of jealousy. *From* denotes cause. *Would not depart*, was determined not to go away.

Ground, gnashed. *Wert thou*, if thou wert. *Wert*, is in the Subjunctive Mood denoting condition. *Of*, concerning. *Blood was shed*, a murder was committed. *Unjustly*, wrongfully. *By* denotes means. *Break not my heart*, do not torment me. *By questions*, by making enquiries. *By* denotes agency. *It is enough*, it is painful enough. *Endure*, bear. *Groaned inwardly*, sighed in his heart. *A groan* is an expression of pain or sorrow.

P. 203. *The light of my old age*, the cause of my happiness in old age. *To whom alone I look*, on whom alone I depend, *To whom.....gone*, who are my only heir. The word *people*, when standing alone, means men in general; but when it has a Demonstrative Adjective qualifying it, (i.e., a, the, this, that, &c.), it means a *nation*. *Thrusts*, forces; drives. *Labyrinth*, an edifice full of intricate windings. *Daidalos*, an Athenian by birth, who devoted himself to sculpture and made great improvements in the art. Being condemned to death by the Areopagus for the murder of his nephew, Perdix, he fled to Crete, where the king, Minos, befriended him on account of his skill. He enabled Pasiphae the wife of Minos to gratify her passion with the bull, and when she gave birth to the Minotaur, he constructed the labyrinth in which the monster was kept. [See note on *Minos*, above]. He was, for this complicity, imprisoned by Minos; but, being set free by Pasiphae, he, together with his son Icarus, tried to fly from Crete by means of wings, Daidalos himself crossed the sea safely, but Icarus was drowned in the

quarters? Where the war rooms, the maps, the offices?—where indeed in the midst of this isolated wilderness was the war?

General Ramsden was acting as Army Commander. Montgomery asked him to return to his corps and immediately sent out a radio message to the Middle East Command saying that he, Montgomery, had from that instant assumed command of the Eighth Army. This was at 2 p.m., August 13th.

He then set out by car to visit the most relentless and redoubtable fighting soldier then commanding in either army in the desert. General Freyberg, V.C., and his New Zealanders were some distance away. Once you left the main road in the desert there were a thousand tracks but none you could trust. The method of proceeding from one place to another was, as at sea, on a compass bearing. The desert was new to Montgomery but he could not help observing after a time as the car bounced and swayed over the rocks that his guide, an A.D.C., looked nervous.

"Do you know where we are?"

The boy was frank—"No, sir". Then after a bit he added dubiously: "I think we are in the middle of a minefield, sir". For the first time that day Montgomery seemed a little restless.

"Then get out of it", he blazed. "Get out of it at once." They drove out over the warning trip-wire without coming to harm, found their bearings and pushed on.

Freyberg eyed his new commander with compassion; it was their first meeting.

"I feel terribly sorry for you," he said kindly. "This is the grave of lieutenant-generals. None of them stay here more than a few months."

Upon the general situation Freyberg was gloomy. This was the atmosphere everywhere Montgomery went that day. When was Rommel going to attack? And where? How were we going to hold him?

Soon after 5 p.m. Montgomery was back at his desert headquarters and he got on to the telephone to Alexander. Two new divisions, the 51st Highland and the 44th, had arrived from England. They were earmarked for the defence of the Delta. Could he have them, instead, in the desert and at all possible speed? "Yes", Alexander said.

In the operations quarters Montgomery asked the staff officers what they were doing. They told him their orders: At all costs the Eighth Army was not to be destroyed *in situ*. If hard pressed they were to make a fighting withdrawal through the Canal and re-establish headquarters south of Cairo. Those were the plans upon which they were working.

pered, said in a low tone, so as not to be heard by the herald. *Have hope*, do not despair. *For.....immortal*, because the Minotaur may be put to death. *Immortal*, (L. *In*, not and *mors*, *mortis*, death), one not subject to death. *Comforted*, solaced. *Their hearts.....little*, they were somewhat consoled. *On board*, into the ship. *Board*, (plank) is used for *ship* by Fig. Synecdoche, the material for the thing made. *Sunium*, a celebrated rock & promontory forming the southern extremity of Attica. *Rang with*, resounded with. *Voice*, sound. *Aegean sea*, the part of the Mediterranean, now called the *Archipelago*, lying between Thrace and Macedon on the north, Greece on the west and Asia Minor on the east. The name is derived (i) either from Aegeus, king of Athens, who threw himself into it; or (ii) from Aegaea, Queen of the Amazons who perished there; or (iii) from Gr. *Aigis* a squall, on account of its storms.

PART III. HOW THESEUS SLEW THE MINOTAUR.

P. 206. *Cnossus*, an ancient town of Crete, the capital of king Minos. *Beneath the peaks of*, at the foot of. A *Peak*, is the highest point of a mountain. *Ida*, a mountain in the centre of Crete, said to be 7674 feet above the sea-level. *To whom.....laws*, who was instructed in the laws by Zeus himself. The Reflexive Pronoun "himself" is used for the sake of emphasis. *Mortal kings*, kings of the earth. *Aegean isles*, islands lying in the Aegean Sea; now known as the Grecian Archipelago. *As many as the sea-gulls*, innumerable. The ships are compared to the sea-gulls. *The sea-gull*, is a web-footed sea-fowl. *Like a marble hill*, strong and splendid. *Beaten gold*, burnished gold; or gold made smooth by beating. *Of* here denotes material. *Statues*, images. *Speaking statues*, images that could speak as if they were living beings. *By his skill*, "By" denotes instrumentality. *Cunning* is here used in its original sense of skilful; from A.-S. *Cunnan*, to know. *Invented*, framed for the first time. *Plumb-line*, a line having a weight attached to its end. *Auger*, a carpenter's instrument for boring holes. *Glue*, a kind of gum made by boiling the skins, hoofs &c., of animals. *Tool*, instrument. *With.....wrought*, with which carpenters work. *Wrought*, prepared for use; made into useful articles. *Masts*, poles set upright in a vessel to sustain



MONTGOMERY WITH HIS LIAISON OFFICERS

Major John Poston standing second from the left

take it by scaling the walls, forcing gates or breaches and the like. *Which.....stormed*, which was so strong that even giants could not have reduced it. *Selinos*, one of the most important towns in Sicily. The Baths were the mineral springs which were formerly called *Aquae Seliuntiae*, now known as the Baths of Sciacca. *Took*, collected. *Comes up*, issues. *Aetna*, a celebrated volcano in Sicily. *Fires*, i.e., the fiery region. *Bath*, a place for bathing. *Vapour*, water reduced to an invisible gaseous state. *To cure the pains*, to remove the sufferings. *To cure* is a Gerundial Infinitive. *Honey comb*, bee hive. *Egypt*, a large country in the north east of Africa. *Fore court*, courtyard. Page 208. *Hephaistos*, see note on P. 174. *Memphis*, a great city of ancient Egypt, on the left bank of the Nile. *Britomartis*, was a Cretan nymph, beloved by Minos, who pursued her 9 months till at length she leapt into the sea and was changed by Artemis into a goddess. *Dancing hall*, a room used for dancing. The student should note that it is an *Unrelated* or *Juxtapositional* compound and should not be confounded with compounds made up of nouns preceded by qualifying participles; as *Humming-bird*, *spinning top* &c. *Dancing* is here a Gerund. *Carved*, made by shaping into an artistic design. *Fair*; brilliant. *Sardinia*, a large island in the Mediterranean, lying to the south of Corsica. *Iolaos*, was the half brother of Hercules, by whom he was sent to Sardinia, where he introduced civilization among the inhabitants of the island and was worshipped by them. *Many.....beside*, many other countries. *Beside*, in addition to; should be parsed as an Adverb. *Up and down*, here and there. *Cunning*, skill. *With*, denotes possession. *Unlovely and accursed by men*, repulsive and hateful. *Unlovely*, repulsive. *They.....face*, they scrutinized each other. *Each other*, may be parsed as a Reciprocal Pronoun, object of the compound verb "Looked in the face." *Looked*, is itself an Intransitive verb, but it takes a Transitive force when followed by some preposition or prepositional phrase. Or, *each* may be parsed as a Nominative absolute. *Take to take*; the "to" being omitted after "bade." *One by one*, i.e., one at a time.

Boon, gift. *A boon*, O Minos, i.e., grant me a boon &c. *Very*, same; an Adjective. *Purpose*, aim; object. *For.....purpose*, because I have come here for the same

as though these past two weary years had never happened. And still the thin insistent voice persisted:

"There will be no retreat. We will stand here. This is where we fight. We remain here either dead or alive."

Well, at least this was something definite after the unending indecisions and hesitations and doubts of the past few months. At least everyone knew where he stood. But how could anyone have this colossal assurance?

"It will be quite easy. No doubt about it whatever. We will finish with Rommel once and for all."

Possibly he did have something up his sleeve: the arrival of two fresh divisions was certainly some sort of a guarantee.

Calmly, picking his phrases slowly, Montgomery told them his plan. A new British panzer army would be created. The line would hold until it was ready. There would be a certain regrouping. There would be reinforcement in every department. At the right moment the British would assault in main force—and the panzer corps would follow through.

No one now was missing a syllable. Quite clearly all this was something quite different to anything that had happened before. This was action—clear and uncompromising.

"I will now explain my methods", Montgomery said; and he proceeded to turn upside down half the accepted ideas of running an army command. De Guingand was nominated Chief of Staff. From now on the Army would be managed through the Chief of Staff. He had complete authority. They were to understand that whatever came from de Guingand was Montgomery's order and to be obeyed immediately.

Senior commanders would have the right of coming directly to Montgomery and he would send for them from time to time. At these meetings they would have to be prepared to state their business inside ten minutes. He would listen to no details. All these would go to the Chief of Staff. As C.-in-C. he himself would live apart and devote himself to the study of the general picture. Memoranda and papers were out. From this night onwards they would have to get used to receiving and transmitting orders by word of mouth. Where papers were necessary they must go to the Chief of Staff.

Montgomery himself would lay down the general plan. They and all their men would be thoroughly briefed on it before the Army went into action. But they themselves must handle the details. They would have great latitude inside the general framework laid down by Montgomery. They could do things their own way, provided only this—that they succeeded.

And finally, the one governing, overriding factor they must

Safe enough, quite safe. *Fell down*, knelt. *When...* came, at the close of day. P. 211. *Went down*, descended. *Gulf*, a hollow place; a deep chasm. *Winding*, tortuous. *Caverns*, caves. *Galleries*, long narrow corridors. *Dizzy*, giddy; confused. *His head was dizzy*, he felt giddy. *All.....clue*, he kept the thread all the time. *Unroll*, spread out. *It lasted him*, it was not fully spread out. *Chasm*, opening. *Tore*, rent to pieces. *Prey*, victim. *Put his head down*, lowered his head. *Right*, straight.

Stept aside, moved away to one side. *Nimble*, with a quick light motion. *Passed by*, rushed beside him. *Cut*, wounded. *Turn*, move round. *Stabbed him*, thrust the sword in his body. *Bellowing*, roaring. *Bellowing*, is the sound of a bull. *Wildly*, frantically. *Felt a wound*, experienced the pain of a wound. *Followed.....speed*, ran after him as swiftly as he could.

Through cavern after cavern, through many successive caverns. *Dark*, gloomy. *Ribs*, the arched passages or galleries within a mountain are called its ribs. *Sound-ing*, resounding; echoing. *Under.....stone*, beneath arched passages of stone that sent forth an echo. *Rough*, rugged; not smooth. *Up.....beds*, ascending rugged valleys and ravines. P. 212. *Sunless*, dark. *Roots*, nethermost caverns; the mountain is here compared to a tree. *Among.....Ida*, through the dark nethermost caverns of Ida. *Edge*, border. *Eternal*, perpetual. *To.....snow*, up to the snow-line. *On went they*, they continued to run. *The hunter and the hunted*, Theseus and the Minotaur. *The hills.....bellow*, the hills resounded with the monster's cry.

P. 213. *Came up with*, overtook. *Panting*, breathing heavily. *Slab*, a thin polished piece of rock. *Caught.....horns*, took hold of his horns. *Forced back*, forcibly turned back. *Drove*, thrust. *Keen*, sharp-edged. *And caught.....throat*, and taking hold of his horns, he forcibly moved back the head and thrust the sharp sword into his throat.

Went back, returned. *Limping*, walking lamely. *Feeling*, knowing. *Mouth*, door. *Then he turned.....place*, then he returned, walking lamely on account of his weariness, and finding out his way by means of the thread,

soldiers as though he had known them for a long time. No saluting, none of that beefy, red-blooded look usually associated with red tabs. He was constantly getting out of his car and talking in a casual way to anyone who happened to be there. He appeared to have no blood-and-thunder-and-glory attitudes: it was simply, "We've got to hit them for six". He wore an Australian slouch hat and, grinning, he accepted badges from the men and stuck them in the crown. If this was a pre-arranged act to gain popularity then no one felt it was so, and it did not appear to be so to those who were watching at the time. From the Australian 9th Division which had been attacking desperately around Tel el Eisa in the north he had a particularly good reception.

Very soon Montgomery had visited all the important sectors along the line and had told all senior commanders and their staffs the rough outline of how he proposed to make good his promises.

Then back at his headquarters with his own staff he fixed his plan and began issuing a stream of orders which transformed that tranquil place into feverish activity. First, the present site of the headquarters was banned. Austerity and the Spartan life were out. They would move at once to Burg el Arab so that there could be close liaison with the Air Force headquarters already established there. The place had excellent road, rail and air communications.

Officers were to have tents and proper equipment. Clerks and typewriters were to be sent down at once from Cairo with additional vehicles, including a caravan and a bath for the C.-in-C. The staff was to eat in a properly run mess.

Next, certain high officers were forthwith dismissed from their posts and they were to be replaced by new men sent out from England. Signals were to be dispatched asking for General Horrocks to fly out at once to command the Thirteenth Corps, and General Leese to replace General Ramsden in the Thirtieth Corps. General Lumsden was to have command of the Tenth Corps—the new panzer force. General Harding was to have the picked division—the Seventh.

Next, a general programme of training was to be started at once. It was nonsense to say that the soldiers learned all they wanted to know in the actual fighting; their leaders got killed and wounded and the new men had to be trained.

Next, the battle. The three vital points on the line were Tel el Eisa, on the sea in the north; Ruweisat Ridge in the centre and Alam Halfa in the south. Rommel would certainly attempt to strike near Halfa in the south; that was the critical point.

supposed that Theseus had been killed. *So*, for this reason. *To this day*, upto the present time.

P. 215. *Guarded*, protected. *Drove back*, defeated. *Amazons*, a mythical race of war-like females, are said to have come from the Caucasus and settled in the neighbourhood of Trebizonde on the Black Sea. They invaded Attica during Theseus' reign but he defeated them. *War-like*, martial. *Hellas*, old name of Greece. *Broke into*, forced their way into. *Stopped them there*, checked their further progress. *Took.....wife*, captured their queen Hippolute whom he made his wife. *Went out to fight against*, marched against; attacked. *Lapithai*, an ancient tribe who dwelt in Thessaly. *Peirithoos*, was king of the Lapithai, and married to Hippodamia. When he was celebrating his marriage, the intoxicated Centaur Eurytus carried her off. This led to the celebrated fight between the Centaurs and the Lapithai in which the former were defeated. Peirithoos resolved to carry off Persephone the queen of the Lower world. Theseus, though well knowing the risk accompanied him to the Hades; but both of them were seized by Pluto and Theseus was fastened to a rock from which he was released by Heracles when the latter visited the Lower world. Peirithoos was worshipped as a hero in Athens. *Embraced*, clasped in the arms. *Noble*, warm; intimate. *Is a proverb*, has become a by-word. *Gathered*, collected. *Boroughs*, towns. *Knit*, united. *People*, nation. *Parted*, separate. *And he gathered.....weak*, formerly Attica was divided into many districts, (twelve, according to some writers), which were weak principalities on account of their being independent of one another; but Theseus united all of them into one strong nation. *People*, subjects; the Athenians. *Father*, originator; creator. *Van*, front. *And six hundred years &c.*, This would place Theseus in the 11th Century B. C. The battle of Marathon took place in B. C. 490 between the Persians and the Greeks in which the former were very badly defeated. *For the country*, on the side of the country. P. 216. *Scyros*, an island in the Ægean Sea, which was conquered by Achilles to avenge the death of Theseus, who was treacherously destroyed by Lycomedes the king of Scyros. The bones of Theseus were discovered in B. C. 476 by Cimon, and brought to Athens where they were preserved in a temple (the *Theseum*). *In triumph*, with pomp. *A noble tem-*

happened the enemy must never be allowed to fight according to his own plan; always according to Montgomery's plan. Then the result was certain. Montgomery was going to repeat this point a good deal later on.

On one matter the C.-in-C. was especially emphatic. This was to be a static battle. Except in the fluid gap in the south no one was to budge an inch in any direction. It did not matter if the enemy were routed; there was to be no pursuit. Everyone must stand fast. The enemy must be beaten off and then left alone.

The reason for this was that the real conflict with Rommel was going to follow later on when everything was ready. The defensive battle of Alam Halfa must do nothing to dislocate or disturb the building up of the Tenth Armoured Corps in the rear. No reserves must at this stage be committed to a limited and indecisive pursuit. Everything must await the mass struggle which would start some weeks later when Montgomery judged things ready, not before.

Insistently and steadily, hour after hour the orders went out, and a great commotion spread across the desert. Thousands of men and vehicles on the backward trek were suddenly halted and turned round. Tens of thousands of men, new guns, new tanks and new vehicles began to pour down towards the front from the Nile Delta. Liaison officers in jeeps were dashing about from unit to unit; *Cancel the previous orders, here are the new—for immediate action.* Headquarters abruptly began to pack their trucks, strike their encampments and set off across the open sand. Huge columns were preparing to move, some going south, some north, some towards the front and others away from it. Isolated convoys carrying land-mines and signals, tanks workshops and camouflage gear, hospitals and petrol, barbed wire and food, ammunition and tentage, water and clothing, artillery and spare parts—all the paraphernalia of this strange expedition in the sand—began to chart their courses and drive off through the dust. Everywhere men were digging or on the march. Officers in staff cars were constantly careering by.

To a newcomer the scene would have presented an impression of the wildest confusion, a disordered scramble through the waves of heat and blown sand. Indeed, to the majority of soldiers at this stage this sudden upheaval had no logical pattern. But what was apparent to everyone was that something new and dramatic had happened in the desert. It had come up with the suddenness of a storm and just as inexplicably; but it was a storm blowing from the east, from

to God to lend us His helping hand and make us wise and brave enough to do noble deeds; but let us also pray that He may help us to remain humble when we have performed such deeds so that we may not come to grief and be put to shame. *Help, give, and keep* are in the Subjunctive Mood used Optatively.

APPENDICES.

A. Summaries.

NOTE.—Introduction and Summary of the first story, 'Perseus,' has been given along with the notes.

STORY II.—THE 'ARGONAUTS.'

INTRODUCTION.

King Athamas ruled in Bœotia. By the Nymph Nephele, he had two children, Phrixus a son, and Helle a daughter. Their cruel step-mother Ino intrigued to have them sacrificed under the pretext of appeasing the gods so that her own children might become kings. The poor children were brought to the altar, but out of the clouds came the Golden Ram, and took them on his back and vanished. Athamas then became mad, killed one of the children by Ino, and wandered about the country; till he came to the oracle in Delphi, who told him that he must wander for his sin till the wild beasts fed him as their guest. He continued to wander for many days till he saw a pack of wolves, who fled away on seeing him and left a sheep that they were tearing at the time; and he ate of it. Thus the Oracle was fulfilled; and Athamas again set up as a king after building a city.

The ram carried Phrixus and Helle till he came to the Thracian Chersonese where Helle fell into the sea called after her the Hellespont. He then flew on with Phrixus to the north east across the Euxine and at last stopped at Colchis, where Phrixus married Chalciope the daughter of Aietes the king and offered the ram in sacrifice; and Aietes nailed the ram's fleece to a beech in the grove of Ares. This was the Golden Fleece which led to the expedition of the Argonauts.

Phrixus died and was buried at Colchis but his spirit could find no rest as he was buried far from his native country. So he used to come in dreams to the heroes of the Minuiai and asked them to go and bring home the

CHAPTER NINE

THE LORD MIGHTY IN BATTLE

I

No ONE ever knows the truth while a war is being fought. Even after a successful battle the high commanders and the politicians have no time to examine what they have learned from the enemy and themselves before they are plunged again into a new situation full of uncertainties and doubts. As for the general public, a wall of enforced ignorance grows up between them and the actual events, and in a world maddened by its own prejudices and hatreds very few people would be capable of seeing the truth even if they had the knowledge. The men in the inner tactical councils and at the hot anvil of the event, they too can scarcely hope to have a complete and balanced view since they are bounded by the harsh and narrow spotlight of their own experience.

Even years afterwards it is not possible to extract the complete truth because by then the falsehoods of war have been repeated many times and become entrenched; documents are lost, the men who together had a special intricate pattern of knowledge at some special place and time become dispersed and memory grows uncertain.

Probably to this day the majority of people believe that Field-Marshal Alexander and his staff planned and conducted the Battle of Alamein and the subsequent march across the desert to Tripoli. But this was not so. Alexander has never suggested it was so; nevertheless the idea grew and persisted, and in England particularly it was felt that while Montgomery supplied the somewhat egotistical heroics and dramatics at the front, Alexander was the calculating and organizing brain behind.

In actual fact Montgomery was never in any really imminent danger of his life at the Battle of Alamein, and from his headquarters behind the line he probably had a more complete and detached view of the fighting than any other man. This was because Montgomery himself and his staff fashioned the entire plan of the battle in the desert many weeks beforehand. They changed their tactics half-way through the battle and organized the ensuing pursuit. And a great deal of this was done without previous reference to either Field-

seeing a malignant and bitter smile on Pelias' lips, he saw that he was caught in a trap; but remembering his second promise to Cheiron he agreed to stand by his word on condition that Pelias should give him up the kingdom when the fleece was brought home. Pelias promised; and Jason asked him to let him have a victim to sacrifice to Hera, and two heralds who might be sent to the different princes of Greece who were his fellow-scholars at Cheiron's residence to summon them to join him. Pelias praised his wisdom and did accordingly.

Part III. The heralds went about the country crying out "who dare come to the adventure of the Golden Fleece." And stirred by Hera, all the princes came from their valleys to the yellow sands of Pagasai. There came Heracles the mighty with his lion's skin and club; and behind him Hylas his young squire; Tiphys, the skilful steersman; Bute's, the handsomest of all man; Castor and Polydeuces the twins; Cæneus the strongest of mortals whom the Centaurs tried in vain to kill; Zetes and Calais the winged sons of the north wind; Peleus the father of Achilles; Telamon and Oileus the fathers of the two Aiantes; Mopsus the wise soothsayer; Idmon who prophesied of all things to come; Ancaios who could read the stars; and Argus the famous shipbuilder; and many other brave warriors. The inhabitants of Iolcos came out to meet them and under the directions of Argus they built a long galley which they called the *Argo*.

Jason went to Orpheus whom he persuaded to accompany him, and he led Jason to Dodona, where they sacrificed to Zeus and Hera, and cut down a bough which they brought to Iolcos and nailed to the beak head of the ship. The ship however refused to move until Orpheus played upon the harp and sang a stirring song:

Part IV. The heroes came to Aphetai where they swore a solemn oath to stand by Jason faithfully in the adventure of the golden fleece. They sailed past the Isle of Sciathos, and turned to the northward toward Pelion up the long Magnesian shore; where they landed to allow Peleus to see his son Achilles who was living with Cheiron. There they rested for a night and in the morning rowed past Olympus, the bay of Athos, and Samothrace till they came to Lemnos. From Lemnos, they sailed to the Propontis.

under the imminent threat of invasion from Italian and German airborne forces in Sicily. They put it to Alexander. Could not the attack at Alamein be launched in September? Alexander sent on the message to Montgomery. No, Montgomery replied, I am not ready yet. Again the Cabinet pressed, and this time it was more like an order. Montgomery finally replied to Churchill through Alexander with these three points:

1. If the attack starts in September it will fail.
2. If we wait until October I will personally guarantee great success and the destruction of Rommel's army.
3. Am I to attack in September?

It was a polite form of blackmail. The Cabinet gave in. In many ways it was an extraordinary truculence in a junior commander, but Montgomery had one solid factor to back his judgment: the Battle of Alam Halfa had begun on August 31st and it had gone precisely as Montgomery had planned and predicted it. Rommel had attacked in the south, had been sucked into the corridor at Halfa, had been mercilessly bombarded while he was in the British minefield, had turned to assault Halfa itself and been destroyed on the new British positions there. Eventually after six days of intense fighting, when wave after wave of the enemy had been beaten off, Rommel had ordered the retreat, and now the gap had been sealed off with a new minefield linking Halfa to the Qattara Depression.

As a curtain raiser, as a promise of his skill and foresight, Montgomery could not have a better start. Many experts regard Alam Halfa as his greatest battle. The swiftness of the planning, the soundness of the dispositions, the intelligence of the anticipation, the clarity of the orders—all these things had an electric result in the desert.

The British troops had not been permitted to pursue, but their elation at standing firm, at wreaking such damage, and now the sight of so many reinforcements pouring into the desert—all this began to fan the spark of morale into a flame.

Then, too, Montgomery had been fortunate. Rommel's attack had come a full fortnight after his (Montgomery's) arrival in the desert. He had had time to get his two new divisions into position. On the other hand, it would be grossly incorrect to say that Montgomery was bound to succeed because of the reinforcements. This is another delusion which has been persisted in since Alamein. It was said that he had the rare good fortune to take over a highly trained army and at a time when two fresh divisions and many extra guns and tanks were being

the Pillars of Hercules, past the Ansonian islands, and Tyrrhenia they reached the sea wherein lay the island of the Sirens, and Orpheus had to strain every nerve to prevent the fascination of the heroes by their songs. Despite all this, Butes swam across, and was about to be devoured by the Sirens when Aphrodite carried him off to heaven. Through Scylla and Charybdis, they were guided by Thetis the sea nymph who came up from the depths below to help her husband, and then sailed on till they reached the country of the Phaeacians where they were received by Alcinous but some of the Colchians were also staying there in search of Medeia. The song of Orpheus stirred the heart of Arete the Queen, who begged her husband not to allow the Colchians to take Medeia with them. It was at last decided that the Colchians should settle there and the Argonauts departed homewards. They wanted to supply themselves with provisions at Crete but Talus the giant who guarded the coast stood in their way. Medeia by her artifices destroyed the giant ; and after filling their ship with food and water ; and passing the Laconian shore and Sunium ; and up the long Eubœan Strait, they reached Iolcos by the sea. They carried the ship ashore but were too weary to move up the beach ; and sat down weeping till they were surrounded by a large number of people who, however did not recognise them. Jason and Medeia went to the palace of Pelias, whom they found sitting with Aeson. Jason fell down at his father's feet but the old man did not know him, till Jason repeatedly assured him that he was his own son.

Part VI. The tale concludes sorrowfully. Medeia induced the daughters of Pelias to kill him under the pretext of restoring his youth. So Jason could not love her, but deserted her ; and she revenged herself fearfully upon him. The other Argonauts distinguished themselves in various ways and dying, left brave sons behind whose fame lives in the *Iliad*, which describes the siege and reduction of Troy by the Greeks.

STORY III.—THESEUS.

ANALYSIS.

The story is divided into four parts, each of which describes a distinct epoch in the life of the hero. Part I.

Once the plan was selected a series of intensive interviews followed with the commanders of the various Army branches and units. One by one the heads of supply, intelligence, artillery, armour and signals were called. The head of artillery, for example, might be asked to reduce things to the simplest form: "How many guns have you got? How long will it take you to bring the total up to a thousand? How many rounds of ammunition will you want to maintain a barrage of two hours' rapid fire?" And to the controller of the armour: "How many tanks? How long to proceed from A to B? How much petrol wanted?" Each man had to be prepared to answer clearly, simply and rapidly—and then make his word good. Very soon commanders learned it was stupid to boast, worse than stupid to underestimate: Montgomery was particularly severe on those who he felt were not doing enough. To everyone it was painfully clear that mistakes and miscalculations were followed by only one thing: instant dismissal.

With his controller of supplies Montgomery went into a careful examination. "When could he deliver? And once the battle became fluid for how long could he keep up delivering and at what rate?"

With the intelligence branch a different game was played. "Imagine yourself the enemy", Montgomery said. "Suppose I did this and this. What would you do?" It was up to the intelligence officer to carry in his head the latest dispositions of the Axis Army, to know its strength from day to day in guns, aircraft, men and tanks, to have information on expected reinforcements. In front of him the dispositions of the coming battle were spread out on a map and he was expected to play against Montgomery a strange and fascinating parlour game, making move for move against the British.

Much of this was, of course, accepted practice in planning. Montgomery's special contribution was that he heightened and centralized and streamlined the whole procedure. Having chosen his plan he discarded the alternatives. All his eggs were put into the one basket. Consequently his orders were very few, very simple and very definite; everyone knew exactly what he had to do. This was the very reverse of what had happened at the fall of Tobruk.

The Air Force was a much more intricate problem, over which the leaders had been quarrelling for years. The air marshals—many of them trained in the old Royal Flying Corps—insisted that for efficiency they must remain a separate unit. Against this the Army argued hotly; Air Force and Army, they said, must be combined as in the Russian, German and

had completed his fifteenth year, she carried him up the hill near Trœzene, and pointing to a particular place, she bade him lift up a large stone which, she said, lay under a tall plane-tree. Theseus tried his best but could not lift it. Aithra sighed; but kept patience. The boy spent much of his time in manly games, but though he became the most powerful man of his time in Trœzene he could not lift the stone for 2 successive years. After his 18th year when he killed Phaia the wild sow of Crommyon, and was universally acknowledged to be the bravest and strongest youth, he was able to lift the stone. Beneath it he found a sword and a pair of sandals and brought them to his mother who thereupon carried him to the top of the mountain whence he could survey Trœzene, the Aegean sea and the shores of Attica. Aithra then asked him to go to Athens to king Aegeus, show him the sword and sandals, and say, "The stone is lifted but whose is the pledge beneath it." Theseus at first was unwilling to leave his mother, but she said that as her life up to that time had been full of sorrow, she could easily bear further sorrows. After this she went into the temple and Theseus began to ponder upon the best way of reaching Athens. At first he thought of crossing the sea in a swift ship; but as he was anxious to distinguish himself in adventures, he resolved to make the journey by land round the Isthmus of Corinth. He journeyed in peace till he came to the Spider mountains where he met Periphetes the robber who used to murder travellers with his brazen club. On seeing Theseus, Periphetes rushed at him, but was killed by the hero who carried his brazen club and bearskin cloak as trophies of victory. He then came to a valley where he saw flocks and herds lying quietly beneath the trees, and shepherds and nymphs dancing on the green but without any music. (The music would have roused the robber and therefore they danced without it). On seeing him, the nymphs dived into the fountain close by and the shepherds ran away. Theseus was surprised at this behaviour but said nothing. He lay down to sleep beneath a shady tree. When he awoke, he saw the nymphs peeping at him across the pool from their caves on the further side and whispering to each other. From what he could overhear of their conversation, he gathered that he had been mistaken for Periphetes on account of the club and the bearskin cloak. He therefore quickly set them right by declaring that he was

determined to attack by night. At this period of the war there was no such thing in use as artificial moonlight, created by shining searchlights into the sky, and so they needed a moon—preferably a waxing moon. The meteorologists told them that this and other necessary conditions would occur on October 23rd.

The advantages of a night attack were obvious: the infantry could find cover in the darkness but it would not be so dark under the moon that they lost contact with one another. For the last few hours before dawn they would be able to pick up mines, dig into the sand and remain there under cover to repel daylight counter-attacks until the following night. Then they would advance again.

Up till now the artillery had been dispersed along the line. Montgomery decided to bunch it together so that it should strike with one concentrated blow. This was part of the general over-all scheme that attack should always be delivered on a narrow front with tremendous driving power behind it.

Further, he discarded the theory that a gap must be made by the infantry in the opposing minefields and fixed defences: the infantry at Alamein would start the gap and then the armour was to blast its way through the remainder. In this case they would be led by the newly invented flails—tanks which exploded mines harmlessly by threshing the ground before them with long chains.

Years before, General Wavell and General O'Connor had established the principle that you must encircle the enemy by penetrating deep into the unprotected desert to the south and then wheeling north to the coast. At Alamein Montgomery temporarily abandoned this theory. He argued that if we attacked in the south—admittedly the weakest part of Rommel's line—then our southern flank would be closed by the Qattara Depression and the thrust would have only one alternative—to wheel northwards. He determined to put his main thrust into the north-centre of the line so that he would be able to wheel either north or south according to how the battle developed.

Finally, there was an elaborate scheme of deception under which tanks were camouflaged as trucks, and fake encampments with fake tanks were secretly built to deceive the enemy reconnaissance aircraft.

For his initial strike Montgomery had upwards of a thousand guns and seven divisions of infantry: the Australians, New Zealanders, South Africans, Indians and the 51st Highland Division. There were also the British 50th and 44th Divisions. With these he would force a "pocket" in the enemy line in the neighbourhood of Ruweisat and Tel el Eisa on the night of

wood, and when he had done so, the old man told him all about the doings of Procrustes ; which made Theseus so angry that he stalked down the glen till he met the robber coming up with the merchants and denounced him before them all. Procrustes showed signs of coming to blows whereon Theseus quickly despatched him, and proceeded on his journey to the vale of Cephissus and the pleasant town of Aphidnai where he was purified by the Phytatids. He then went to Athens, to the palace of his father king Aegeus, where he saw his cousins, the Pallantids, revelling in the hall of the king, who himself however, was nowhere to be seen. He sent a message by one of the servants to Aegeus, who was in the chamber with Medeia the witch, saying that Theseus of Troezen asked his hospitality. At the name *Troezen*, Aegeus' colour changed, but subduing his feelings he came out into the hall where both the father's and the son's hearts opened towards each other. Medeia in the meantime, had watched these proceedings. She prepared a poisoned cup of wine, which she herself brought into the hall and presented to Theseus, but he became suspicious, and insisted upon her tasting of it first. She then dashed the cup to the ground and fled away in her dragon chariot. After that he displayed the sword and sandals to Aegeus who at once acknowledged him, and declared him to be his successor. The Pallantids grew jealous and attacked Theseus all in a body but he killed all of them; while those who fled, were set on by the people and driven out of the city. After that Theseus lived peacefully at Athens till the spring equinox when a herald arrived from Crete, to demand 7 youths and 7 maidens as tribute due from the Athenians to his master king Minos of Crete in revenge for the murder of the latter's son in Athens. Theseus asked to be allowed to go as one of the youths that, he might kill the minotaur (the monster who devoured them) and thus put an end to the matter for ever. Aegeus was at first quite averse to this proposal, but at last he agreed on one condition, viz., that if Theseus returned safe, he should hoist a white sail in place of the black one which used to be displayed on the return of the ship that conveyed the youths and maidens to Crete. Theseus then went to the market-place where lots were being drawn for the youths and maidens, and volunteered to be one of them. When they reached Crete, Ariadne the